



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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EVIDENCE OF WATER ON MOON FOUND ON-SITE FOR FIRST TIME

Prior discoveries of water have been based only on samples returned to Earth or data gathered by instruments from afar

LUNAR SURFACE MUCH DRIER THAN THE EARTH

A device on-board China's Chang'e 5 probe analysed the mineralogical composition of a patch of soil and a rock, and detected water on the spot. The analysis revealed that the lunar soil at the landing site contains less than 120 parts-per-million (ppm) water or 120 grams water per tonne while the rock carries 180 ppm, much drier than that on Earth

CHANDRAYAAN-1 WAS THE FIRST TO FIND IT

Scientists believe it was the solar wind that contributed to the humidity of lunar soil as it brought hydrogen that makes up water
In 2018, data gathered by NASA's Moon Mineralogy Mapper on India's first lunar probe, Chandrayaan-1, conclusively established that there exists water ice on the Moon's surface | P12

1,731

GRAMS WORTH OF SAMPLES BROUGHT BACK TO THE EARTH BY THE PROBE

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VUJAYAWADA • BANGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KODIKKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRISSUR • KALABURGI



Congress workers, led by KPCC president DK Shivakumar, take out a padayatra demanding the early implementation of Mekedatu project, from Sangama in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara district on Sunday | VINOD KUMAR T

A watershed? Cong begins yatra, govt shows restraint

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Kanakapura

WITH the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government seemingly not in a mood to take on and scuttle Congress party's 10-day padayatra, demanding the implementation of Mekedatu irrigation project, the event took off with over 7,000 people taking part on Sunday at Sangama, the confluence of Cauvery and Arkavathi rivers.

But the grand old party suffered a setback with Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, aged 73, getting exhausted after climbing a 4.5 km steep road in the hot sun in this patch of Eastern Ghats. He returned to Bengaluru midway, while other leaders completed the scheduled 15 km trek for the day.

Earlier, a video of KPCC president DK Shivakumar

stumbling while performing a pooja in the Cauvery river went viral on social networking sites with BJP trolling him. "He could not cross Mekedatu (goat's leap), let goat take a leap," it tweeted.

But Congress managed to launch the event with much fanfare with a host of leaders and local seers taking part. Though the government had issued a warning on Saturday that any violation of

weekend curfew and Covid norms would not be tolerated, no action was taken against rallyists. "We are on river Cauvery with the flags of the nation, state and raitha sangha flying high and swamis, senior leaders and celebrities throwing their weight behind us. Arrest us if you can," Shivakumar dared.

Congress had invited Kannada actor Shivarajkumar, but he did not turn up, while another actor Duniya Vijay attended with other cine artistes.

Though the marchers crowded around and some of them had their masks down, the police were helpless. Ramanagara Superintendent of Police S Gireesh and his counterpart from Bengaluru Rural Kona Vamshi Krishna supervised the security situation.

CONTINUED ON: P4

The Mekedatu Padayatra is unique and achieved its motto of uniting the leaders of the Congress party cutting across the regions up to Bidar as all of them have taken part. It has also proved a binding force to unite the Kannadigas for a just cause

Mallikarjuna Kharge, Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha

Modi takes stock amid big clusters

Close to 400 Parliament employees infected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

WITH humongous clusters of close to 400 Parliament employees and 150 Supreme Court registry officials and staff members testing positive for Covid, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a review meet on Sunday and stressed the need to take area-specific measures, besides accelerating vaccination of the adolescent age group.

Modi will soon resume regular interactions with chief ministers for specific interventions to manage the pandemic, as he did during the second wave last year. "PM said that a meeting with CMs be convened to discuss state-specific scenarios, best practices and the public health response," the PMO said in a statement after the meeting, which was also attended by Union ministers Amit Shah and Mansukh Mandaviya and top health experts.

The interactions with chief ministers will likely be with high incidence states.

In Parliament, 65 staffers of

Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 200 of Lok Sabha Secretariat and 133 of allied services tested positive between January 4-8, sources said. As for the Supreme Court, a few judges, too, have been found infected.

Meanwhile, the Centre will start administering booster doses to healthcare and frontline workers, and comorbid people in the 60-plus age group from Monday. Since the model code of conduct is now in place in five poll-bound states, Modi's photo will be filtered out of vaccination certificates issued there.

At the meeting with Modi, a detailed presentation was made on the status of Covid-19 in India, including areas of concerns with

respect to states and districts with high positivity rates, the statement said. Delhi's positivity rate on Sunday climbed to 23.53% with 17 Covid deaths and 22,751 new cases in a day.

The Rajasthan government tightened its restrictions, ordering closure of schools in urban areas and other measures, including announcing Sunday curfew like in Tamil Nadu. P7



NATIONWIDE	JAN 8	JAN 9
Fresh cases	141,986	159,632
Recoveries	40,895	40,863
Deaths	285	327

KARNATAKA	JAN 8	JAN 9
Fresh cases	8,906	12,000
Recoveries	508	901
Deaths	4	4

A health worker collects swab samples of a passenger at KSR Railway Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISH KRISHNA HP



Booster dose drive for 21L people from today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SIX lakh healthcare workers, seven lakh frontline workers and eight lakh people above 60 years with comorbidities across the state will be eligible for the precautionary (booster) doses opening from Monday. The drive will be launched by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at 10 am in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Centre (formerly Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute).

Beneficiaries who have received Covaxin and Covishield will be eligible for the booster dose of the same make. Those who have taken Sputnik are not yet eligible for the booster dose.

CoWIN slots for the precautionary dose will be available to eligible beneficiaries on completion of nine months (39 weeks) after the second dose.

CONTINUED ON: P3

State sees 12K cases, +vity rate up after 6 months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA on Sunday reported 12,000 Covid cases, of which Bengaluru contributed 9,020, witnessing a drop in recovery rate, while mortality rate fell for the second time in four days and for two days in the state capital. The state re-

ported a relatively high number of discharges at 901.

With the big number added, the state's Covid tally shot up to 30,51,958 with 49,602 active cases that saw a rise of 28.81 per cent. Bengaluru's tally rose to 12,99,319, recording a 26.16 per cent increase in active cases which stood at 40,570.



Karnataka saw its first increase in positivity rate on Sunday since June 4 when it was 8.81 per cent — the peak of the second wave of the pandemic. The rate has been consistently falling since then and it stood at 5.28 per cent on Saturday. On Sunday, however, it went a notch up to

5.29 per cent. Health officials attributed the fall in mortality rate and a rise in positivity rate to a higher number of people testing positive, while the number of deaths has continued to remain in single digits since October 31. The state has so far lost 38,370 lives to Covid, of which 16,422 are in Bengaluru.



TIGER

CENSUS FROM JAN 23

The forest dept has issued a circular to tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries to prepare for the all-India tiger census field exercise, which will begin this month | P5

'Kannada to be made must in pre-primary, primary classes'

ENS @ Bengaluru

MEASURES will be taken to implement Kannada at pre-primary and primary classes in all private schools, Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh has said.

During a meeting on the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP), he said strict measures will be taken to make Kannada compulsory across the state.

The proposed mandatory implementation of Kannada as part of NEP in degree courses had run into trouble with the Karnataka High Court shooting down the government order a few months ago.

NEP is due to be implemented in phases for pre-primary schools in the coming academic year, with multiple meetings taking place to discuss its implementation.

Day after election code, Modi plans day to honour Sikh icons

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A day after the model code of conduct for polls came into force in five poll-bound states, including Punjab, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced that December 26 shall be observed as *Veer Baal Divas* to mark the martyrdom of Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh.

He made the announcement in a series of tweets while paying tribute to Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru, on his birth anniversary. Zorawar Singh (9) and Fateh Singh (7) have a hallowed place in Sikh lore as they let themselves be bricked alive by Aurangzeb's

army to protect their faith.

Modi's gesture brought muscular nationalism to the centre-stage of the Assembly polls. Not surprisingly, BJP's ally and former Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh welcomed it. "The courage portrayed by Sahibzades under enormous oppression is unparalleled and everyone across the globe must know about their supreme sacrifice. This is a commendable step in that direction," he tweeted.

Inclusive, harmonious

"The martyrs envisioned a world that is inclusive and harmonious. It is the need of the hour for more people to know about them," Modi said

Indian Council for Cultural Relations president Vinay Sahasrabudhe, too, hailed it, saying the decision is in the spirit that history is a part of our collective identity.

In his series of tweets, Modi said *Veer Baal Divas* will be observed on the same day Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh attained martyrdom after being sealed alive in a wall. "These two greats preferred death instead of deviating from the noble principles of Dharma. The bravery and ideals of Mata Gujri, Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the four Sahibzades give strength to millions of people. They never bowed to injustice," the prime minister added.



STRICT NORMS

Police personnel stop a pedestrian and check his documents during the weekend curfew in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHIRAM BN

31-year-old arrested for blackmailing minister's son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE city police on Saturday arrested the 31-year-old son of an eminent astrologer for allegedly blackmailing the son of Minister for Cooperation ST Somashekar. The accused allegedly made repeated calls to the minister's staff, threatening to upload an obscene but morphed video clip of the minister's son Nishanth on online websites.

Somashekar said the accused had demanded money for not uploading the video, but had not mentioned the amount.

Based on Nishanth's complaint, the Cyber Crime police tracked down the accused, Rahul Bhat, and arrested him after he returned from Dubai. He is a resident of RT Nagar.

After Bhat's arrest, Somashekar said the accused had contacted his close staff to threaten that it was the last chance and he would upload the video on social media. Three calls were made from an international destination in December the minister said.

The morphed video clip had been sent to some people close to Nishanth. "It is a deep-rooted conspiracy to scuttle my political growth. My son Nishanth is innocent," Somashekar said.

The police produced Bhat before a magistrate and handed him over to the Central Crime Branch (CCB) for further investigation. Two more accused, including the daughter of a politician, are involved in the case, the police said. She is said to be living abroad.



Selected youngsters from the Siddi tribe at a training session | EXPRESS

ASHWINI M SRIPAD
@ Bengaluru

DASTAGIR Abdul Siddi from Gunjavati, a remote village near Karwar, was in tenth standard when he dreamt of joining the Army. Someone at his village told him that he has to run fast to be selected for the forces. As there was no proper athletic track or even a ground near his village, he cleared some shrubs near his house and started practising. Only when he joined the first PU in Karwar did he see athletic grounds, where students trained.

Dastagir is from Siddi community, originally from South-East Africa and settled in some parts of Uttara Kannada district for centuries. Many youngsters are first-generation school-goers, while their parents continue to work as daily wagers.

"After college hours, coach Prakash Renukar trained some students and made them run at college grounds. For nearly a month, all I did was stand there and watch them train. One day, the coach came up to me and asked why I just stood there and watched. I told him I was interested in running and he included me in the team," he said.

Dastagir is one of 52 youngsters from Siddi community who will be trained in sports in Bengaluru. The Sports Department will take care of their regular education apart from their training, which will start from Tuesday. Dastagir was looking for some sports platform when he landed at a camp

organised by the department to identify talented Siddi boys and girls, who are believed to have superior physical strength.

The Department conducted 18 different tests in September last year for 500 Siddi community children below 18 years. Of them, 100 were selected and were given one-week training in November. Of them, 52 were picked up for further training in boxing, swimming, athletics and other sports. "I cover 100 metres in 11.05 seconds and my aim is to bring it down under 10 seconds. I will shift my college here as I will also be training. I will represent India one day," he said confidently. P5

Siddis are neglected and live in backward, rural areas. They have the potential to win national and international awards

KC Narayana Gowda, Sports Minister

Offline classes to continue for Class 10, PU

Parents worried; Students get first vax dose

DONNA EVA @Bengaluru

WITH cases surging in Bengaluru, parents of students studying in Classes 10, 11 and 12 are worried for their children's safety. However, Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh said that offline lessons for these classes will continue.



Mohammed Shakeel, president of Voice of Parents - Karnataka Association, and parent of a Grade 11 student, said there is no reason to put children in danger. "Two weeks' worth of academics isn't going to make a difference for the students. However, being exposed to the virus will definitely make a difference," he told TNIE.

Further, sources from the minister's office also mentioned that schools were kept open to encourage vaccination for students in the age group of 15 to 18.

Despite a number of children getting their first vaccination shot, parents are wary of sending them to school.

"From a parent's perspective, it seems like a game plan to increase the number of vaccinations. How can they allow unvaccinated children to attend classes when fully vaccinated professionals and working people are allowed to work from home? It doesn't make sense to put children at risk," said Shakeel.

The minister also announced that schools will remain closed for other classes if the positivity rate keeps increasing.

Two weeks' worth of academics isn't going to make a difference for the students. However, being exposed to the virus will definitely make a difference — Mohammed Shakeel, A parent

Bannerghatta makes space for leopards

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

A long-pending plan, and the first of its kind leopard safari, will soon come up on 50 acres at the Bannerghatta Biological Park. Bannerghatta houses the largest population of leopards in any zoo, and the management has been working extensively to utilise the available space for the safari.

The area earmarked for the leopard safari is different from the sloth bear safari and rescue centre. A team from Bannerghatta was sent to Balasahb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park in Maharashtra to study how leopards are housed there.

"We are not just raising the height of the fence and walls

and creating deep moats, we are also working to radio-collar the leopards so that even if one escapes, tracking is easy. A 15-day trial period is also planned to study the behaviour of the animals, see how they respond to jeeps and bus movement, the presence of people around. While there is a lion and tiger safari, the leopards are different in characteristic. So caution needs to be exercised. So far, visitors to the zoo could see the leopards in enclosures," said a senior BBP official.

Park Executive Director Vanshri Vipin Singh told The New Indian Express that the plan is to open the safari in another month or so. But the present pandemic situation



and other clearances could delay it. There is also a need to undertake a detailed trial. Bannerghatta is currently home to 39 leopards.

As per Central Zoo Authority rules, animals which are born in captivity or brought under animal exchange programme, can be displayed in

zoos. Those rescued must not be kept for public view.

"It will not be easy. Leopards are agile and very difficult to manage. Many must have forgotten the wild leopard caught at Vibgyor school and escaping from the rescue centre overnight in February 2016 it is still fresh in our memories. We are looking at every way possible to ensure that leopards and citizens going for the safari are safe. We do not want instances where leopards shy away and don't show, or jump on vehicles to escape, or even climb over the other side in search of females for mating as the area proposed for safari is close to the national park," said a Zoo Authority of Karnataka official.



STAY HOME, STAY SAFE!

A deserted MG Road during the state-wide lockdown in the wake of rising Covid-19 infection | SHIRAM B N

Home buyers demand CM's resignation for failing to impose RERA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

HOME buyers have demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Housing Minister V Somanna as their several petitions have gone unanswered.

At a meeting on December 18, home buyers appealed to the Chief Minister's Office to redress their issues. Over the last few weeks, they have sent petitions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bommai, Somanna, Home Minister Amit Shah and District Magistrate J Manjunath. But there has been no response.

Home buyers had visited K-RERA offices to submit a

memorandum after they faced several issues with builders. The same day, they also submitted a memorandum to the CMO. They said K-RERA member D Vishnuvardhana Reddy had told them that the authority had recommended to the Karnataka government to set up a bench to address their complaints over delays in payment of interest to home buyers. He also told them to appeal to the government to set up the bench.

But Reddy has since clarified that no such proposal has been sent to the government. In a statement, he stated, All the complaints pertaining to seeking refunds as well as interest for the period of delay in completion of projects have to be heard and disposed of by members of the authority by constituting single-member benches or by the three-member authority. It read, No such suggestion to the effect that homebuyers may appeal to the Government of Karnataka to constitute a separate bench/tribunal to deal with complaints seeking delay period interest has been given.



Resting pods, greenery on Banashankari skywalk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A Foot Over Bridge connecting the landmark Banashankari temple with the Metro station and Transit Traffic Management Centre of BMTC was unveiled by Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRL) on Friday. The bridge will be readied as a green space with resting spots for the public.

The skywalk will help in smooth vehicular flow, safe access for pedestrians, and space for street vendors. "By connecting the Metro station and bus stand to the other side of the street, the skywalk will provide safe access to commuters from the TTMC and Metro station," mentioned a BMRL document. "Setting this apart from regular FOBs, this skywalk will be a vibrant public space filled with greenery and resting pods," it added.

The Banashankari junction is a busy intersection in the city, teeming with activity all through the day. Currently, the junction is a nightmare for the public with odd-shaped traffic islands and ill-planned pedestrian crossings.

EXPRESS READ



Damages delay Metro tunnelling by 2 months

After 487 days of tunnelling, Bengaluru Metro's Tunnel Boring Machine, 'Avni', emerged at the ground level at MG Road Metro station on Thursday with severe damages to many cutter discs on its Cutter Head. The damage delayed completion of its 1086 metres journey from Shivaji Nagar Metro station by nearly two months.

MBA grad now a farmer, sells organic fruits

DONNA EVA @Bengaluru

WITH Sankranti round the corner, an MBA graduate, who has turned a farmer, is offering baskets of organic, homegrown fruits to corporate offices.

Usharani Vinay, the founder of Skyo Farms, had worked in several IT companies. During the pandemic, however, she found her love for farming. She impulsively bought a piece of land in her village, Yelagalavadi in Kunigal taluk, and started farming. "We had moved back to our village during the pandemic, when we came across a piece of land for sale. I bought it and started farming," she told TNIE.



An assortment of fruits sold by Skyo Farms, run by Usharani Vinay

The farm has been running for a year-and-a-half now, with Usharani growing around 15 varieties of fruits, including guavas, papayas, bananas and mangoes. As part of integrated farming, she also rears sheep. Recently, she also added a pond

full of tilapia. She uses the recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) for fish farming, where the same water is filtered and recycled to reduce water consumption. She recycles the waste from sheep and tilapia as fertiliser in her farm.

In light of the festive season, she has taken to selling an assortment of her produce to corporate offices and apartments. Each basket costs around Rs 500 and has 2 kg of bananas and papayas each, a kg of guava and mosambi, two coconuts and sugarcane. She also promotes weekend farming, where people from the city can visit her farm to harvest and tend to their own crops on a 600 sqft

patch of land. "We've had people ordering from us from all over the country. We are currently only focusing on corporate offices and apartments, because it's easier in terms of delivery and other logistics," she said.

The farm spans 3.16 acres with Usharani also growing sandalwood, drumstick, horsegram and corn, among other horticultural crops, of which she uses some to tend to her sheep. "It's definitely a drastic change, because it was an unexpected decision, but it's quite addicting because every day there's something new and curious that's pulling us towards farming," she says.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

10th January: There is a lot of very positive talk about saving the planet at the moment. A lot of experts think that you can't be into astrology and not care about the environment, because what are the stars and planets but part of our greater, cosmic, environment?

ARIES

(Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Try not to take others too much for granted or you may come unstuck. There is a great deal waiting to be explained and, if major moves are planned, you would be wise to wait until the picture is clear. Also, rely on your natural charm to win rivals over to your side.

TAURUS

(Apr 21 - May 21)

Wait for another few days for major family meetings or decisions. Today's stars are sociable, indicating that you will make progress only if you operate as part of a team. Equality is the watchword, so try to make sure that everyone has a fair chance.

GEMINI

(May 22 - June 21)

Partners may still be in disagreement, but not for much longer. You could find it difficult to accomplish your tasks and feel as if one particular goal is slipping from your grasp. But be assured that friends and allies will continue to carry the torch on your behalf, probably right through to next year.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 23)

Now is a good time to reconsider your attitude to close partners. Also, develop all foreign contacts and get in touch with friends and relatives abroad. Adventure is in the air, even in a small way, and you may be tempted to take major risks - in moderation, of course!

LEO

(July 24 - Aug. 23)

Relatively sympathetic stars favour financial adventures. You are inclined to spend your hard-earned money on luxuries and may be tempted to take a gamble. As to this last point, you must take responsibility for your own actions: if plans do come unstuck then it's up to you to get them back on track.

VIRGO

(Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Nobody really knows what you are thinking at the moment, or even what you are experiencing. Either your thoughts have sped ahead of your actions, or plans are lagging behind what is actually happening. One way or the other, you've got to catch up with yourself.

LIBRA

(Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

There's a wide range of possibilities today, which means that all astrologers should be disagreeing with each other. I'll take a middle road and advise you to spread yourself around as widely as possible, investigating any personal options you may have ignored until now.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You appear to be having second thoughts, which may come as a surprise to some people who thought they knew you well. It may be that you no longer feel so secure in a choice that you took a few weeks ago, but that uncertainty may reflect nothing more than the fact that you must now stand on your own two feet.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

Your expansive and optimistic nature should now be an advantage. There is nothing to hold you back save your own memories, and perhaps fears. You can let rip and live like there's no tomorrow. To put it another way, if you focus your attention on the present, then you will begin to build a better future.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 23 - Jan 20)

It's bound to be a few days before you gain a fix on exactly what is going on. You may do best to keep your private thoughts to yourself. You never know when blurted something out is going to have consequences opposite to those you desire: every word you utter could come to mean something much more than you intended.

AQUARIUS

(Jan 21 - Feb. 19)

You must now make some decisive moves and salvage as much as you can before your mood changes. Very soon you will realise that life is a good deal more mysterious and uncertain than you once thought. Someone close to you already realises that there can be no final answer.

PISCES

(Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

You're on top form, and if you are true to yourself you won't put a foot wrong. The general tone of the day is argumentative, so you must decide whether to confront someone now or bide your time. Plus, if you know what's good for you, you'll make sure you pick the right target.

THE PHANTOM



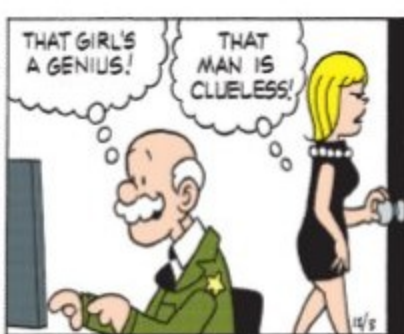
BEETLE BAILEY



LOCKHORNS



DENNIS THE MENACE



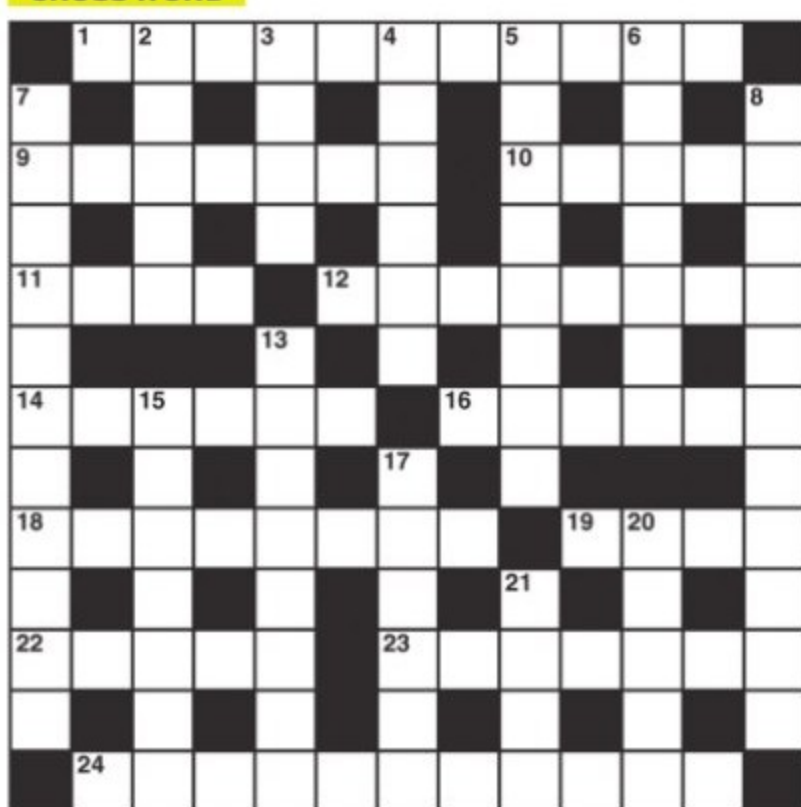
HI AND LOIS



BLONDIE



CROSS WORD



ACROSS

- Kind of reed that's different (4-7)
- They are suspended in cold weather (7)
- One is disturbed by a sound (5)
- Fairly large stock company? (4)
- Share concern (8)
- Some trainee dedicated to work required (6)
- Arouse revolutionary tribes (6)
- Tangled up the thread we twisted in coils (8)
- With which one gets right on to the green (4)
- Minimal green space by the way (5)
- Singular mistake in Latin translation (7)
- Drivers causing a riot amid applause (11)

DOWN

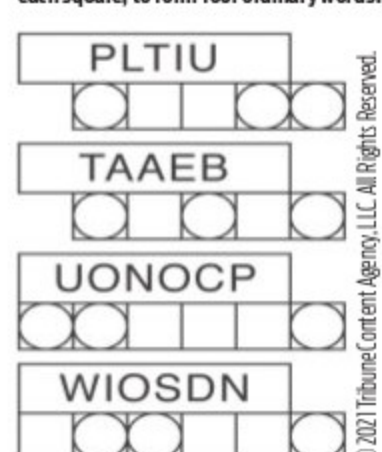
- Rosie is in willow shape (5)
- William who starts to work as a bank clerk (4)
- In the East a strange signifying relief (6)
- Translated but ended badly when about to finish (8)
- Id fill in the result - it's obvious (7)
- Prayer for good health and where to make it? (7-4)
- Religious work that involves one more duty (11)
- He's willing to let others succeed (8)
- It clears the vision but deceives the judgment (7)
- The answer to this lies in the rector (6)
- Reversible blade (5)
- Release without charge (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Months, 4 Threaten, 9 Novice, 10 Abrasion, 12 Pail, 13 Shute, 14 Syle, 17 Lost for words, 20 Bottom dollar, 23 Aard, 24 Amend, 25 Land, 28 Indochina, 29 Thrift, 30 Not right, 31 Appeal.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S Jumbles: SHOWN, TRACK, UNLOAD, INDIGO

ANSWER: When asked about their participation in the parade, everyone agreed - IT WAS AN HONOR

High R-Value of wave across India foxes scientists

Reproduction number ranges from 2 to 6; waning of antibodies, virus' ability to slip through could be factors

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

IN the tidal wave of surging SARS-CoV-2 infections, an unprecedented high R-Value has taken scientists by surprise. The R-Value, or reproduction number, measures the contagiousness of the disease in terms of the mean number of individuals who will get infected by a single infected person. So, if the R-Value is two, then on an average, one infected person will infect two people.

"The R-Value in the current wave is very high in some states, in comparison to the first and second waves. This is unusual and surprising. We have analysed data and found that the R-Value in many states is ranging from 2 to 6, which is very high. This also shows that the infection has spread beyond the metros, into the country's hinterland," Dr Sitabha Sinha of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) in Chennai, who is leading the data study of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in India since the onset of the pandemic, told

TNIE. The data is being collected from crowd source initiative www.incovid19.org which is continuing the Covid-19 India initiative. The latter had stopped updating its database from October 31 last year.

Sinha said that major metros have been showing R-Value greater than one since mid-October 2021. "The surprise is that states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat and Haryana, in a coordinated manner, have been recording high R-Value since the last week of December," he added. "In Gujarat, on December 1 last year, the R-Value was greater than 1 even though the actual number of active cases was less than 1,000. From December 24, the R-Value had climbed to 3. In Jharkhand, the values have been fluctuating. Between December 14 and 19, the R-Value in the state was 1.2. It rose to 2.09 between December 20 and 25. Between December 26 and January 2, it rose to 5.38. In UP, the R-Value shot up to 4.36 from December 28. In

Delhi, the R-Value has been above 1 from November 30. On December 26, it went up to 4.6," said Sinha. He said there could be three reasons behind the sharp increase in R-Value across the country. "It could be because of the waning of antibodies in people, who had taken the vaccination early last year. Secondly, the ability of this pathogen to escape immune response in people previously exposed to it, and thirdly, the churning of the population that has allowed a new group of susceptible people to be exposed to it," said Sinha.

He said the high R-Value and sudden surge in Covid-19 cases has posed a challenge to understand and predict the stage of the current wave that India is currently in. "If the susceptible population is less, then the rapid growth in the number of infections would be quickly arrested and fall subsequently. If people have been infected before and are getting re-infected, it may stay on for a while. A lot depends on the action taken on ground. The pandemic will end but we cannot let nature take its course," said Sinha.



DANCE OF SARS-CoV-2 VARIANTS



A health worker collects swab sample of a woman at Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA H P

Viruses are known to mutate into newer variants. In keeping with the trend, the SARS-CoV-2 virus too has several mutations in its genetic code, each ending up as a new variant in succession. Mutations in SARS-CoV-2's spike protein — the part of the virus that binds with the receptors of human cells to infect and destroy them — makes the virus spread easier, and may even render existing vaccines less effective, leading to reinfections. The original SARS-CoV-2 (December 2019) has several subsequent variants.

PRESENT CONCERNS

Omicron (B.1.1.529)

- Identified in early November 2021 in Gauteng in South Africa
- Has about 50 mutations in its genetic code, 30 of which are in the S-gene of the virus in its spike protein
- Known to have 70 times faster transmissibility than Delta variant
- Since November, it has already spread to 77 countries, including India
- Experts yet to find out whether it has vaccine escape characteristics or not

IHU (B.1.640.2)

- Identified in Southern France in mid-November 2021, in vaccinated individual
- New patterns of mutations found in this variant, compared to Delta and other variants
- 46 nucleotide substitutions, 37 deletions, and 14 amino acid substitutions, 9 amino acid deletions found in spike protein
- At present restricted to France, but its severity is not yet known

EARLIER MAJOR VARIANTS

Alpha (B.1.1.7)

First major variant of concern found in UK in 2020 winter

Spread 50% faster than original virus

Current vaccines, monoclonal antibody therapies, found effective against this variant

Beta (B.1.351) and Gamma (P.1)

First identified in South Africa, and Gamma (P.1), first identified in Brazil

Huger transmissibility than original, but not higher than Alpha

Observed low neutralisation by antibodies even in vaccinated people

Delta (B.1.617.2)

Most widely spread variant across the globe, identified in India early last year

Spreads 100% faster than original SARS-CoV-2 virus

Unvaccinated people stand vulnerable to this variant, which is said to cause severe sickness

NO MEDICAL CERTIFICATE NEEDED FOR BOOSTER SHOT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"VACCINATION will be free of cost at all government Covid vaccination centres. No medical certificate is required for eligible beneficiaries to avail the precaution dose, and no new registration is needed. All the beneficiaries can download

their vaccination certificates from the CoWIN portal," a press statement from the Health and Family Welfare department read.

Healthcare and frontline workers who have completed the stipulated nine months will receive a reminder SMS for the booster dose. Beneficiaries

will be able to book online appointments from Monday based on vaccination schedules put out by the district administration and site managers.

On-site/walk-in appointments will also be possible from Monday.

Healthcare and frontline workers not tagged on CoWIN

need to visit government Covid vaccination centres along with their employment certificates to tag themselves in appropriate categories before taking the booster dose.

Districts geared up

All districts have geared up with planning, logistics, staff

etc. The drive will be launched at the district level by district in-charge ministers and at the taluk level by MLAs.

Deputy Commissioners have conducted preliminary meetings for coordination and effective implementation.

Of the 4.89 crore target population in the 18-plus age

group, the state has vaccinated 4.8 crore or 99 per cent with the first dose and 3.9 crore or 81 per cent with the second dose.

In the 15-18 age group, with a target of 31.75 lakh beneficiaries, the state has vaccinated 15.5 lakh or 49 per cent of teenagers.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client namely, Mr. N. Ravi, S/o Mr. Narayanaswamy, Mob: 9739123333, Aged about 55 years, Residing at, No. 8/153, VASANTH NILAYA, Mirza Road, Shamrao Layout, Anekal, Bangalore District, is the absolute owner of a property in Poonapalli Village, of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Attached to the Regn. District of Krishnagiri, and Sub Registration District of Kelamangalam bearing Poonapalli Village, 1. Survey No. 740/A, Dry Ext. Ac. 1.29, Asst. Rs. 1.29, 2. Survey No. 739/B, Dry Ext. Ac. 2.00, Asst. Rs. 0.86. The above Two survey numbers have been converted into house plots, in which Plot No. 221 (Two Hundred and Twenty One) measuring East to West 30 feet North to South 40 feet totally measuring 1200 square feet. He has purchased the said property from Mr. N. Subramani vide Doc. No. 10155/2021 registered in the office of sub-registrar office, Kelamangalam on 29.10.2021. On 07.01.2022 about 5.00PM at Xerox shop, Mirza Road, Anekal Town, Bangalore Urban District, my client has lost the original sale deed executed in between his previous vendors Narayana Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Ashwathnarayana Reddy, Vishwanath Reddy in favour of Smt. Kamalamma L under vide document No. 5548/1986, dated 28.07.1986 registered in the office of Sub registrar, Hosur. After that, despite of his best efforts and through search, he could not trace out the same and in this regard on 07.01.2022, my client lodged police complaint at Anekal Police station, Anekal, if anybody finds the above said original document it is requested to hand over the same to my client or to my below mentioned address.

Madhu M. Advocate, Office at: 1st Floor, Mahadeswara Complex, Attibole Road, Anekal Town, Bangalore District-562 106. Mob: 9036188178

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDL. PRL., FAMILY COURT AT BANGALORE
M.C. No. 2384/2020
BETWEEN: Jagadish .S ...
PETITIONER
AND: Mamatha.B. ... RESPONDENT
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT
Mamatha B, W/o Jagadish.S., D/o late Basavaraj, aged about 42 years, C/o her brother Santosh, No. 7-G, 8th Street, 2nd Cross, Jogupalya, Ulsoor, BANGALORE-560008.
Whereas, the above named Petitioner has filed a petition against you for Divorce under Section, 13(1) (i-a) OF THE HINDU MARRIAGE ACT, 1955.
You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a Pleader on 11-02-2022 at 11.00 A.M. to answer the same, failing which the Petition will be disposed off Ex-Parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on 27-12-2021 at Bengaluru.
By order of the Court, Sheristadar, Family Court, Bangalore.
Advocate for Petitioner:
B.V. Prashanth
No.1, 2nd Cross, Devappa Garden, RMV 2nd Stage, Nagashethalli, Bangalore-560094.

QuoteExpress

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE

NELSON MANDELA

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
No.16, Suffren Street, Pondicherry - 605 001. Ph : 0413 - 2336469

Govt. of Puducherry, Local Administration Department invites Online tenders through two covers from eligible Bidders for "Establishment of State Mission Management Unit & City Mission Management Unit to provide handholding support to Local Administration Department (LAD) for implementation of AMRUT 2.0 and SBM (Urban) 2.0 in the U.T. of Puducherry". The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is Rs.2,00,000/- and Bid processing fee is Rs.10,000/-.

The period of contract will be 36 months from the date of commencement of the Contract Agreement. Bidders may download the complete set of bidding documents and other terms & conditions in English Language from the website <https://pudutenders.gov.in/> "Latest Tenders" from 05.00 PM on 11.01.2022.

No.110/LAD/AMRUT 2.0 & SBM 2.0/PMU/2022
Puducherry, dated 10.01.2022

-Sd/-
RAVINDER SING CHAHAR
DIRECTOR,
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT.
No.283/DIP/AD(PRESS)/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH Municipal Administration Department

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Invites bids through Government e-Marketplace (Gem) for Establishment of Cambridge Career Guidance Centres by supplying/Commissioning the required material under "Transmission of Municipal Schools Project". Bid Document Download start date 10-01-2022, 03.00 PM. Detailed Bid document can be download by visiting website : www.gem.gov.in
Sd/- Commissioner & Director, Municipal Administration, AP, Mangalagiri
DIPR No.608PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 06.06.2022

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪಟ್ಟಣ, ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ನಗರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು - 577102
E-mail: dobcmekkamagalore@gmail.com
Ph: 08262-295922
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು/ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ/ಸರ್ಕಾರ-10/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.01.2022
:- ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ :-

2022-2023ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಲಯಂಗಣ್ಣು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಲೆಮಾರಿ ಪ್ರಮಾಣೀಕರಣದ ಖಾತೆಯನ್ನು ಗ್ರಾಹಕ - 'ಇ' ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಲೆಮಾರಿ, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಮಾಚಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಲಾಕ್ತಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಲಾಕ್ಷಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಅಪರ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ-2 ಹಾಗೂ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಕಾಲಿ ಮೋಡಲ್/ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಯಂಸೇವಾ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ವಯಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.02.2022 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಾಗಿನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ:- ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that, my client, Smt. K.N. RACHANA, Daughter of Late. K.V. Nagabhusana, Wife of Smt. Pavan T.L. Aged about 35 Years, R/o No. 96, Sharadha, First Floor, 17th Main Road, BSK 1st Stage, Bengaluru - 560050 has instituted a Suit for Partition against Smt. K.N. ANURADHA and OTHERS, in O.S. No. 6600/2021 on the file of City Civil Judge Bengaluru (CCH-27). After hearing the Hon'ble Court has passed an Interim order restraining R/o K.N. RAKSHITH and Smt. PRIYANKA.A. BAGALKOTKAR in any way alienating or otherwise creating third party rights on the suit schedule properties.

If any Person/s enter into any Agreement/s, Understanding/s, Sale Deeds, or any document/s, such transactions are not binding on my client and my client reserves the right to prosecute such Person/s in the competent court of law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 1: All that piece and parcel of the Building constructed on Site bearing Municipal No. 26 (Old Corporation No. 79/5 & New Corporation No. 79/8) PID No. 25-71-26, situated at 2nd Cross, Shankarappa Garden, Binnipete, Magadi Road, Bengaluru, measuring East to West on Northern Side: 97-0 Feet, Southern Side: 98-0 Feet and North to South: 50 Feet, totally measuring to an extent of 4875 Square Feet, more particularly known as Bengaluru Tile Factory Compound along with 132 Squares RCC roofed building in the Ground, First, Second and Third Floor and bounded on:
East by: 25 Feet Road, West by: 25 Feet Road;
North by: Property bearing No. 79/5, South by: Property belonging to TejSingh & Seela Devi

Item No. 2: All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Site bearing No. 687, PID No. 56-16-687, situated at 22nd Cross Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 61 Feet, totally measuring to an extent of 2440 Square Feet and bounded on:
East by: Property bearing No. 686, West by: Property bearing No. 688;
North by: Road, South by: Property bearing No. 672.

Item No. 3: All that piece and parcel of the Building constructed on Site bearing Municipal No. 14 (Old No. 5), PID No. 46-12-14, situated at 2nd Main Road, New Tharagupet, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 75 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet, totally measuring to an extent of 2250 Square Feet, along with 42 Squares building in the Ground, First, and Terrace Floor and bounded on:
East by: Road, West by: Property No. 86,
North by: Property No. 15, South by: Property No. 13; (Old No. 87)

Item No. 4: All that piece and parcel of the Building constructed on Site bearing No. 528 in BDA-1, PID No. 10-79-528, situated at APMC Yard, Yeshwanthpura, measuring 60 Feet x 30 Feet, totally measuring 1800 Square Feet, along with 16 Squares building in the Ground Floor and bounded on:
East by: Property bearing No. 529, West by: Property bearing No. 527;
North by: Property bearing No. 531, South by: 60 Feet Road;

Ravi H.S. HSR VAKILS, Advocates
No.477, 12th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru -560 027.
Mob: 9866677303 / 9141377303
Bengaluru Date: 10.01.2022

KMML The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)

Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583 Kollam, Kerala, India.
Phone: +91-476-2651215 to 2651217. Fax: +91-476-2680101.
Email: contact@kmml.com, URL:www.kmml.com

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

No	Tender Id	Name of the Work
1	2022_KMML_465436_1	Fabrication and supply of Filter head for Bag Filter S304-305
Chavara 07.01.2022 sd/-DGM(Mts) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd		
2	2022_KMML_465700_1	Design and supply with erection/ commissioning assistance for upgradation of pneumatic conveying system for carbobeads at U-300 of KMML TP Unit, KMML, Kollam
Chavara 07.01.2022 sd/-HOU(T) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd		

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Website: www.shriramhousing.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of Shriram Housing Finance Limited (SHFL) under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (said Act) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (said Rules) issued demand notices to the Borrowers details of which are mentioned in the table below to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SHFL has taken the Physical possession of the mortgaged property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 6th day of January 2022.

Borrower Name and address	Amount due as per Demand Notice	Description of Property
MR. M NARAYANAPPA & MRS. N HAMSAVENI (Rupees Lakh Fifty Seven Lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Five Only) as on 15.09.2021 in respect of Loan Account No. SHLHBANA0000 326 with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the receipt of said notice.	Rs. 57,06,285/-	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 34, Property No. 19, Khatha No. 815, Situated at Seegehalli Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, now presently within the limit of BBMP, measuring East to West 30 Ft & North to South 40 Ft, in all measuring 1200 Sq Ft and bounded on the:
R/Al. No. 4, Site No. 18, 2nd Main, L N Reddy Colony, Near Adarsh Vista Villa, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore -560 037.	Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Five Only) as on 15.09.2021 in respect of Loan Account No. SHLHBANA0000 326 with further interest at the contractual rate, within 60 days from the receipt of said notice.	East by: Private Property, West by: Site No. 35, North by: Road, South by: Private Property
Also At: MR. NARAYANAPPA, Bangarpet Panipuri Point, No.25, Ground Floor, Sacha Apartments, Vibuthipura, Basavanagar, Near Shell Petrol Bunk, Bangalore - 560 037.	Notice dated: 19.09.2021	
Also At: Site No. 34, Property No. 19, Khatha No. 815, Seegehalli Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore -560 049		

This notice is also hereby to caution the general public at large that the authorized officer of SHFL is in the lawful Physical possession of the immovable property mentioned herein above and the Borrowers or any person shall not after receipt of this notice transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate any of the above mentioned secured assets referred to in this notice, without prior written consent of SHFL.

Place: Bangalore Date: 06.01.2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Shriram Housing Finance Limited

fincare Small Finance Bank Limited
Registered Office: 301-306, 3rd Floor, Abhishek-V, Opp. Mayor's Bungalow, Law Garden Road, Main Road, Bengaluru-560035, Karnataka. Phone: +91-80-42504444.
www.fincarebank.com, CIN No.U67120GJ1995PLC025373

APPENDIX IV [See rule 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2000 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued Demand Notices for calling upon the Borrowers, Mortgages, Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the said demand notice amount within 60 days (Sixty days) from the date of the said demand notice.

The Borrowers, Mortgages, Co-borrowers and Guarantors mentioned herein above having failed to repay the said demand notice amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property/properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub section 4 of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, on 04-01-2022

The Borrowers attention is invite to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, 2002 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers, Mortgages, Co-borrower and Guarantors mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/properties will be subject to the charge of the Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd. for an amounts and further interest and other charges thereon till the date of recovery.

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgage	Total Outstanding Amount
1.	Mr./Mrs. N.RAJU, 2. Mr./Mrs. BHAGYAMMA Loan Account No. 17660000062727 Demand Notice Dated: 03-06-2021	Rs.7,41,460/- due as on 16-05-2021 further interest and other charges thereon till the date of realization
Description of the Immovable Property: Item No.1: Property bearing Khaneshumari Katha No.49, property No. 92, Measuring east to west 32 feet and north to south 50 feet is situated at Varadanahalli Village, Bhasethalli Gramapanchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Measuring East to West: 32 feet and North to South : 50 feet totally measuring 1600 sqft along with present and future construction therein. All bounded on: East by: Property & Vacant Site of Marjunath, West by: Property of Ramanjanappa & Munivappa, North by: 10 feet Road, South by: Munimihappa & Doddiah Vacant Property		
Item No.2: Property bearing Serial No.101, Property No. 85 , Measuring East to West 14.5 meter and North to South 12.5 meter is Situated at Sunnaghatta Village, Aluruddanahalli Grama Panchayath, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore Rural District totally measuring 181.25, and bounded on the: East by: property of Munihayamma, West by: property of Umashankar, North by: Road, South by: Own Vacant Property		
2.	1. Mr./Mrs. SYED MUSHEER, 2. Mr./Mrs. SUFIYO SULTANA Loan Account No. 66170000042357 Demand Notice Dated: 03-06-2021	Rs.3,39,258/- due as on 16-05-2021 further interest and other charges thereon till the date of realization
Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of property Plot No.FF-01, New municipal no.12/8 having 550 Sq ft of super built up area in building known as Emerald Apartments along with 91.66 Sqft of undivided share in property no.133, formed out of assessment No.23, Katha No.1479, present BBMP New municipal No.12, the unique property ID no (PID) allotted to this property is 94-311-12, New PID No.022-W0375-2, Situated at 4th Cross Shampura Road, Kadugondanahalli Village, kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North taluk, Bangalore, Presently within the limits of BBMP, Land measuring East to West: 60 feet and North to South 55 feet., and bounded on the, East by: 40 feet Road, West by: Vendor's Property, North by: School Building, South by: Site No.134.		
3.	1. Mr./Mrs. LEEELAVATHI R, 2. Mr./Mrs. BALA MURALI KRISHNA.S Loan Account No. 66170000039333 Demand Notice Dated: 03-06-2021	Rs.2,15,450/- due as on 16-05-2021 further interest and other charges thereon till the date of realization
Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of site Old No.62/2 Katha No.100/C, Ward No.84, Situated at Bande nagara Grama, Baiyappana Halli Dhakale, Krishnanagarapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP.Measuring East to West : 12.6 ft and North to South: 26 ft Totally measuring 327.6 sq.ft, and bounded on the, East by: Road & Military Place, West by: Road & House Property belongs to B.V.Jayarama, North by: Property belongs to M.Rajanna, M.Keshavamurthy, & M.Ravi, South by: Property belongs to Kamalakshi.		
4.	1. Mr./Mrs. ABBAIAH M, 2. Mr./Mrs. LAKSHMAMMA, 3. Mr./Mrs.BALAKRISHNA A, 4. Mr./Mrs. BALARAJ A Loan Account No. 19660000391393 Demand Notice Dated: 03-06-2021	Rs.9,38,625/- due as on 16-05-2021 further interest and other charges thereon till the date of realization
Description of the Immovable Property: Property Bearing No. 4/6, Situated at Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Measuring to an extent of 30X40 Feet and totally measuring 1200 Square Feet., and bounded on the, East by: Remaining Portion of same Sy Number belongs to Smt. Subhashini, W/o Gopala Rao Property, West by: Remaining Portion of same Sy Number belongs to to Sukumar, North by: 20 Feet Road thereafter property bearing Sy No.4/5A, South by: Remaining Portion of same Sy Number belongs to Abdul Samd Khan Property and remaining property of Smt. V. Suresh.		

Date: 10-01-2022 Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorized Officer, Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd.



KPCC president DK Shivakumar slips and loses his footing at the Sangama before the launch of the party's Mokedatu padayatra on Sunday. BJP sarcastically tweeted, "DK could not cross at least let the goats cross."

Padayatra veteran exhausted by selfies

Opposition leader Siddaramaiah, considered a 'padayatra veteran' after his famed Bengaluru to Ballari walkathon of nearly 350km, realised that the Mokedatu walk is another ball game altogether. On Sunday, as the padayatra started, his discomfort was obvious and he was clearly was not up to the challenge. It was not so much the uphill road as people getting in his way and not allowing him to walk freely. Selfie hunters too popped out of nowhere, flashing mobile cameras -- an uncommon species back in 2012. After obliging more than 40-50 selfie stars, Siddaramaiah began to look tired. One enthusiast even brought a cake and asked Siddaramaiah to cut it. If this was not enough, there were shawls and turbans to honour him.

Sulking Vishwanath gets his due

Around 9.30am Thursday, Adagur Vishwanath was seen at Basavaraj Bommai's residence, awaiting his turn to meet Chief Minister Bommai at his RT Nagar residence. A few minutes past, Bommai rushed out, Adagur in hot pursuit, reportedly telling him that he was interested in becoming a Syndicate member of the Karnataka State Open University. The Chief Minister was none too happy, and reportedly turned him down. Adagur, who had been sulking over not being made a minister by Yediyurappa, as promised, was heard speaking very firmly with Bommai, and insisting that he be made a Syndicate member. The stand-off ended when Bommai excused himself. Later, Adagur Vishwanath's supporters saw a large smile on his face, confirming that he had got his way finally, and was now a Syndicate member.

Not big issue: Ivan's take on Punjab breach

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security lapse during his recent visit to Punjab triggered a blame game between Congress and BJP leaders. Addressing a press meet in Mangaluru, AICC secretary and former MLC Ivan D'Souza opined that PM Modi and BJP should have no problem over his 15-minute wait on the flyover due to the farmers' protest enroute, as he had made farmers wait for 15 months in the cold and rain, before repealing the contentious farm laws. He went on to say that if he was in PM Modi's shoes, he would not have made it a big issue, attracting curious looks from journalists. Realising it was an apples-and-oranges comparison, Ivan was quick to add that he would not become Prime Minister.

Suraj gets into shoes of dad Revanna

The grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, Dr Suraj Revanna, seems to have stepped into father H D Revanna's shoes with aplomb. On January 6, when most of the newly elected MLAs were sworn in at the Banquet Hall at Vidhana Soudha, the Hassan MLC, a physician, did not turn up, apparently following his father's advice that the inauspicious Dhanur masa or Shoonya masa should pass. This drew the attention of other attendees and newshounds. "When the likes of Gowda and even H D Kumaraswamy follow Revanna's advice, even while filing nomination papers, Suraj following it in toto is not a surprise," remarked a close associate of the family. The moot point now: Will Suraj come barefoot with lemons in his pocket, like Revanna, to be sworn in?

YATHINDRA TAKES OFFICIAL TOSK

MYSURU: A purported video of Congress MLA Yathindra Siddaramaiah taking a Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation official for a task has gone viral on social media platforms Yathindra, who took part in an event at Tagaduru, was informed by the villagers that the CESC officials had stopped electricity supply to their houses citing non-payment of bills. Several gram panchayat members also alleged they had even stopped power supply to a panchayat citing the due was high. Yathindra, who inquired about it with the CESC official, was not convinced with the answer. "You can't get bills cleared from default-ers who are rich but target the poor," he said. As the officer did not bat an eye for his words, the MLA lost his cool. "You need to learn how to talk to an elected representative. You are unfit to be in the profession," he purportedly said.

India must have strategic outlook, says Ram Madhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

RSS national executive member **Ram Madhav** opined that India should build a strong economy first and have a strategic outlook to play a key role in the changing world order. Speaking during an online discussion on 'India's Role In the Emerging World Order - Challenges & Opportunities' organised by Samvada World on Sunday, Madhav said India has a role to play in the shifting world order but 2-3 significant handicaps are plaguing it. He said India had played a very limited role during the making of the previous world order and former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru wanted to play a big role. Though he brought some countries together, the alliance had no agenda, which form the basis of any alliance, and hence it failed, he said. "We should have strategic thinking and strategic outlook. You can not keep pumping mon-



ey to Afghanistan without thinking the Taliban may be back and then cry billions of our investment is gone. India should build a strong economy. It is in a pitiable condition today and we just give rosy numbers. In no way we can invest heavily in the military. We need to have long-term plans," he opined, adding that India should give importance to ASEAN countries. Prof Madhav Das Nalapat, Director, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, said technology companies are decoupling from China as they (Chinese) are capable of stealing the technology and beating them. "Like China took advantage of the Cold War between the US and the USSR, India should take advantage of the Cold War between China and the US," he said. The book "The New World Order: Shifting Paradigms - Changing Narratives" edited by Prashanth Vaidyaraj was released.

WAR OVER PADAYATRA

Cong playing politics over Mokedatu: CM

Hitting out at GOP, Bommai says action will be taken as per law for violating Covid-19 guidelines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HITTING out at the state Congress leaders for going ahead with the padayatra demanding the speedy implementation of the Mokedatu project across the Cauvery, Chief Minister **Basavaraj Bommai** on Sunday said that action will be taken against them in accordance with law for violating government's Covid-19 norms.

He accused the Congress of playing politics on the Mokedatu issue, instead of behaving like a responsible opposition.

"I have called a meeting of important leaders of our party and senior ministers, where we will discuss several issues, including Bengaluru development, Mokedatu project and the padayatra," Bommai said.

When cases regarding the project are pending, as a responsible political party, who have been earlier in power, and being fully aware of the system, the law, what inter-state water dispute is, court and tribunal orders, they should not have gone ahead with the Padayatra, Bommai said. "But politics seems to be important for them... people will decide," he added.

Regarding violation of Covid-19 norms, a notice has been issued to them and officials have personally advised them against it, he said. "But they have neglected it and are going ahead... we will take action in accordance with

law," Bommai added.

Bommai accused the Congress of not putting any efforts to take the Mokedatu project forward while in power as it lacked commitment.

"The Congress was in power for five years and they could not submit a Detailed Project Report properly. The DPR was submitted during the coalition government, even then they didn't have any commitment. DK Shivakumar, who was the irrigation minister then, failed to take it forward," he thundered. Bommai claimed that the Congress leaders are suffering from "guilty consciousness" and hence they are trying to misguide the people.

Pointing out that the Congress had organised a similar padayatra in the past, regarding Krishna river and made several promises, but failed to fulfil it while in power; he accused them of misguiding the people and that the public will not fall for it.

He said the BJP is committed to implement the project and after it came to power the DPR has gone from Central Water Commission to Cauvery Monitoring Board for approval.

"A meeting is likely to be held this month during which decisions may be taken. Cases regarding the project are also likely to come up this month in the Supreme Court. We are following up with our legal team. We are also working to get environmental clearance," Bommai added.



The Congress was in power for five years and they could not submit a Detailed Project Report properly. I have called a meeting of important leaders of our party and senior ministers, where we will discuss several issues, including Bengaluru development, Mokedatu project and the padayatra

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister



A huge stage at the Sangama along the Cauvery river was the venue for the launch of the Congress' 10-day Mokedatu padayatra | VINOD KUMAR T

BJP delayed project to expand its TN base: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Kanakapura (Ramanagara district)

LEADER of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah on Sunday reiterated that the BJP governments at the Centre and the state delayed the implementation of the Mokedatu project across the Cauvery in order to expand their base in Tamil Nadu.

"Hence the Centre is not giving environmental clearance for the project and Irrigation Minister Govind Karjol should be ashamed of himself for not showing courage to get it done," he said, while addressing the gathering at the launch of its 10-day padayatra with the theme 'Namma neeru, namma hakku' (Our water, our right) at the Sangama. "Tamil Nadu BJP chief Annamalai sat on a dharna against the project. CT Ravi, BJP national general secretary, supported him. To improve their strength in Tamil Nadu,

they have betrayed the rights of Kannadigas on the Mokedatu issue," he thundered.

The former CM said there was no stay by the Supreme Court on the project as the DPR was prepared in consultation with senior counsel Fali S Nariman as there were no legal hurdles. "But the double engine governments in the state and at the Centre have not taken any initiative to implement the project," he added.

He also claimed that 6,500 acres of forests would get submerged after the implementation of the project and the government has identified 10,000 acres of land to hand it over to the forest department to compensate for the damage caused. "The Centre has also agreed to it in-principle," he said.

Siddaramaiah said the proposed project will also help Tamil Nadu as surplus water to the tune of 260 tmcft can be saved.

FIR filed against organisers

BENGALURU: The Ramanagara district administration on Sunday filed an FIR against the organisers of the Mokedatu padayatra at Sangama for holding a programme attended by over 7,000 people in violation of Covid-19 norms. "We have booked the organisers in general and have been closely watching the videos of the event to take action against the persons in particular which will be ascertained by Monday," Deputy Commissioner K Rakesh Kumar told TNIE. The DC had also issued a notice earlier to KPCC president D K Shivakumar.



KPCC president DK Shivakumar enjoys a coracle ride in the Cauvery river on Sunday | VINOD KUMAR T

Padayatra a worry, Bommai holds meeting to discuss consequences

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

WHILE Congress leaders was busy with the launch of the padayatra, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was busy holding a closed door meeting on Mokedatu and other issues with Urban Development Minister Byrati Basavaraj, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra and MLA N Munirathna.

The issues discussed were whether Karnataka's interests would be compromised due to the Congress' overenthusiasm over Mokedatu. Speaking to *The New Indian Express* after the meeting, Byrati Basavaraj said, "When Raitha Sangha leaders went to



Mokedatu, interested parties from Tamil Nadu approached the National Green Tribunal and filed a case, and when the

matter was cleared by the NGT, it was taken up in the Supreme Court."

Bommai, who was Water Resources Minister earlier, had expressed concern that the Mokedatu issue should not be challenged afresh. Minister Govind Karjol, too, said that the issue had been taken up when Ramesh Jarkiholi was minister.

However, Congress leaders rubbished the talk. Bengaluru Rural MP DK Suresh said, "Political pressure on the Centre always tends to help the state, and remaining hesitant and reluctant pushes the cause of the state to the back. Look at how proactively Tamil Nadu is

able to push through its projects, compare it with Karnataka. Finally, political will is important. The BJP government is trying to hide its lapses and inaction, how can the party justify that people have given 25 seats."

Bommai and his ministers also discussed the Rs 6,000-crore package announced to develop Bengaluru city, and spoke about which civic infrastructure can be developed, and which wards and assembly segments are to be covered. With the city heading for BBMP elections in the coming months, the BJP is keen to put infrastructure in place.

BJP top brass to keep watch on developments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sources said the BJP central leadership had advised Bommai to show restraint as the event was taking place at a Vokkaliga bastion where the party has no strong base. Central leaders will keep a watch on the developments over the next few days and instruct the CM accordingly, they added.

In the meantime, Congress is apprehensive that the government could blame the padayatra for a spurt in Covid cases and put stringent restrictions ahead of the rally's concluding ceremony at National College Grounds at Basavanagudi in Bengaluru on January 19.

FORGOTTEN HERITAGE

Locals, tourists rue sorry state of Chola temples, urge authorities to preserve them

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

TOURISTS, locals and history enthusiasts have sought the attention of the State Government and the archaeological departments of the State and Central Governments over their alleged negligence towards historical temples near the famous heritage centre Talakadu, which have turned into dump yards.

The temples, which belong to the Chola era, were found to be neglected and dilapidated by citizens in December, who have since been knocking on the doors of all government departments to save them from complete ruin.

Gopal Balakishnan, a history lover from Mysuru, said the temples built during the Chola dynasty period -- in Tadiamanagala and Kaliyuru villages, which are around 10 km from Talakadu and around 60 km away from Mysuru -- are now getting reduced to dust.



A Chola dynasty-era temple in Tadiamanagala remains in bad shape, crying for attention and restoration from the authorities | EXPRESS

Unfortunately, even the villagers know very little about these structures, which is why they are turning into dump yards.

"The pathway to the temples is also in a very bad condition. I have been documenting the Chola temples and was shocked to see their condition. These are over 1,000 years old, and were built during the reign of Rajendra Chola, during the Kaliyuru war. The hero stone

in Kaliyuru village lies abandoned. Understanding its archaeological importance, it should be shifted to the Bengaluru Museum. The stone is a symbol of the war between the Cholas and the Gangas. While the government is protecting Talakadu temples, it should understand the history of this area too," he reflected.

Locals point that the government tends to improve a site not just protecting history, but

for tourism and revenue generation. But to avoid rush to just one destination, more places should be explored and such lesser-known destinations can give a fillip to such initiatives.

However, the two temples are not explored or listed in the list of sites for protection by the state or central archaeological departments. B R Poornima, Commissioner, Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, said that the temples are not under them and they have no information.

Archaeological Survey of India officials added that the temples are undeclared, and assured to undertake a survey of the sites. "Any property which has historical importance is surveyed and listed to the central government for inclusion in the list for conservation. In this case also it can be done, subject to availability of funds from the Centre," an ASI official said.

Post-poll tie-ups work at national level: Yechury

Says CPM will seal alliances with like-minded parties across states, which are strong enough to defeat BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

THE CPM believes that the efforts to float an anti-BJP front at the national level ahead of elections might not work since all successful fronts in the past materialised only after the elections and not before. Speaking to the media here on Sunday after the conclusion of CPM's three-day Central Committee meeting, party general secretary **Sitar- am Yechury** said that this was on account of people's varying perception of political parties in different States.

At the State level, the CPM was striking alliances with parties which have ideological affinity with it to build an anti-BJP formation. This was the

approach the party has adopted in the five States that are going to the polls in February-March. The ultimate goal was to defeat the BJP at any cost.

"Historically, only post-poll alliances at the national level formed the governments. That was the case with United Front, UPA-I, NDA, Janata Party, which came to power defeating Indira Gandhi in 1977 elections," he said.

He, however, said that discussions would take place even before elections but national level strategies would come into play only after the elections. Not ruling out possible alliances with Congress, he said that at the State-level, Congress had aligned with Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra and point-



CPM general secretary Sitar- am Yechury in Hyderabad on Sunday | **RVK RAO**

ed out that in Assam, CPM and Congress did have a pre-poll alliance. He made it clear that the party would form alliance with like-minded parties strong enough to defeat BJP in their states -- like RJD in Bihar

and SP in UP.

When asked about a possible alliance with TRS in 2023 Assembly elections in Telangana, he said that the party would cross the bridge when it gets there, depending on the prevailing political situation at that time.

Criticising the NDA government for its all-round failure in managing the pandemic, pushing the economy into a crisis, triggering galloping unemployment, runaway inflation and widespread hunger and poverty, the CPM leader said what was happening was 'looting of the people' across the country.

Observing that BJP was starting at the defeat in UP, Uttarakhand and Punjab, he felt that

the saffron party may use all the methods to pressurise and intimidate the voters in those States.

He said that he had appealed to the Election Commission of India to fulfil its constitutional mandate to conduct free and fair elections. CPM State secretary T Veerabhadram said that it looked like Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao still had a soft corner for BJP as his attacks on BJP only focused on the issues like paddy procurement and agricultural laws. He felt that the Chief Minister would have to be straight forward and declare his stance on the national issues, and give a call to defeat BJP at the national level, which could make his stand more credible.

With little ebb in pandemic, IT sector may work the hybrid way

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE
@Bengaluru

NOT many were prepared for the mayhem and uncertainty that Covid-19 brought in its wake. With cases again increasing rapidly this year, large corporations, predominantly IT firms, are working on recalibrating approaches and realigning their teams.

While the last two years were trying times for the economy, the IT sector put its weight behind innovating novel workflows and processes, which helped maintain its growth trajectory, without impinging the safety of its human resources. Systems, such as Work From Home (WFH), once considered a privilege, became mainstream.

Accordingly, the modalities of staffing and talent management in the IT sector are likely to see a paradigm shift going forward as well.

Among several changes, experts predict the emergence of a hybrid work model. Here, employees may choose to work from remote locations, thus adhering to safety protocols, while harnessing maximum productivity. However, offices will continue to function with staffers working on critical op-

erations which can only be executed on-site. "The pandemic made everyone realise that the only way forward is WFH, but the good thing is that the IT industry is very nimble and agile. Many companies even allowed employees to shift their entire workstations home, providing them hardware, bandwidth, routing, UPS, and also incentives," shares Akhilesh Tuteja, Partner and Head, Digital Consulting, KPMG in India.

He continues: "But one cannot say work will be completely remote in future, because there are many services IT companies support that are highly regulated and have strong data protection expectations. Those tasks have to come back to a controlled environment. Hence, the answer lies somewhere in between -- the hybrid work model."

"You are definitely going to

see organisations pushing their employees to start coming back, albeit in a hybrid mode. Synergy, project development and milestone management are always better when one is physically dealing with an employee," adds Vijay Sivaram, CEO, Quess IT Staffing.

Talent churn

Interestingly, the Indian IT industry sailed calmer waters last year, driven by both domestic and global demand, serving individual and institutional clients.

A Nasscom report titled -- Technology Sector in India 2021 - New World: The Future is Virtual/Strategic Review -- expects the country's technology industry to grow 2.3% in FY2021, touching \$194 billion. While exports are slated to grow at a modest 1.9% to -- \$150 billion, the domestic market will push the sector up 3.4% at \$45 billion Yo-Y.

All this growth and promise have pushed the button on talent acquisition too. "A huge move is seen towards contractual staffing. We are also seeing more gig workers being hired. You will see new skills emerging, such as Blockchain development and AI, as you will see companies adopt safer, hyperledger-based protocols," Sivaram says.



WINNING WAYS

Siddi athletes to be served nutritious diet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THOSE selected are staying at Jayaprakash Narayan National Youth Training Centre near Chikkajala in Bengaluru. The Sports Department has organised a special diet to build their strength. "They will be served two eggs and two bananas along with breakfast in the morning. Dal, chapati, rice, sabji and fruits for lunch. Chicken and other nutritionally rich food for dinner. When I was at my village, we hardly had a non-vegetarian meal," said Joseph Bastya Siddi, who hails from Ugginakere village.

His focus is on boxing. "I never thought we would get a place like this in Bengaluru where we can make our dream come true," he added.

Dinesh Shankar Siddi, who is 15 years old, was studying at a government school in Kelape. He learnt how to swim at Bedthi river, which flows near his house, during summer holidays when he was ten. "I love to swim and can hold my breath for 30 seconds," he added.

Sports Minister KC Narayana Gowda said Siddi is neglected and live in backward, rural areas. "They have the potential to win national and international awards," he added.

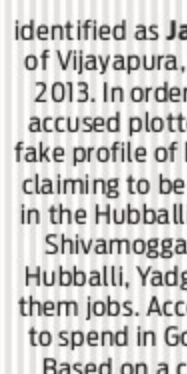
They will be served two eggs and two bananas along with breakfast in the morning. Dal, chapati, rice, sabji and fruits for lunch. Chicken and other nutritionally rich food for dinner

Joseph Bastya Siddi, Ugginakere resident

CRIME PATROL

Cyber police nab conman who cheated 26 women

Bengaluru: The Cyber Crime police from the South-East division have arrested a 34-year-old man, who allegedly cheated 26 women on the pretext of marrying them. The accused also offered them jobs in the Hubli Electricity Supply Company Limited, claiming to be a senior officer, and collected Rs 21.3 lakh.



The accused has been identified as **Jaibheem Padakotti**, a native of Vijayapura, who worked as a lineman in 2013. In order to earn money quickly, the accused plotted the crime. He uploaded a fake profile of himself on matrimonial sites, claiming to be a section officer at HESCOM in the Hubballi Division. He lured women in Shivamogga, Haveri, Mysuru, Dharwad, Hubballi, Yadgir and Raichur, by promising them jobs. Accordingly, he collected money, to spend in Goa, Puducherry and Mumbai. Based on a complaint, he was arrested.

Ex-chancellor of varsity held in money laundering case

Bengaluru: The ED arrested ex-chancellor of Alliance University, Madhukar G Angur, on January 7 in a money laundering case for misappropriating university funds of Rs 107 crore. ED had initiated a probe on the basis of four FIRs against Angur and others. The three accused Angur, Priyanka BS and Ravi Kumar were allegedly involved with the university during 2016-17. "Angur and others informed the parents of students through emails and notices not to deposit the fee in the official accounts of the university and instead, asked them to deposit it into the illegally opened bank accounts by Angur and others in the name of Srivari Educational Services," stated ED. It added, "Parents of about 4,500 students were persuaded to deposit fees in the illegal bank accounts, and around Rs 107 crore was siphoned off by the accused." Angur was produced before the City Civil & Sessions Judge and Special Judge for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases at Bengaluru on January 8 and remanded to judicial custody for seven days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Nadim Baig, Residing at No. 4/1, 12th E Cross, Padarayana, Bangalore-560026, I have lost my Original Registered Sale deed executed on dated: 14.05.2012 Doc. No.477/2012-13 While travelling in BMTCL Bus from Majestic to Padarayana I lost. If any person/institution has any claim or interest of any nature pertaining to aforesaid property and document, the said claim along with Supporting document shall be filed with undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. Any claim raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding.

Deepa A.M., Advocate
KARV4742012
No. 6, Shumika, 90 Feet Road, Chandra Layout, Bangalore 560040. Bangalore, Dated: 08.01.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client, Mrs. ZAHEDA BEGUM, W/o Late Y.Mohammad Shafi, residing at No.21, 13th cross, B.S.A Road, Bangalore-560 084, is negotiating with one Mr. SHASHI KUMAR JAISWAL, S/o Dharamanayak Madanlal Jaiswal R/o Plot No.128A, Phase-3 Kalyan Nagar, Moti Nagar, Hyderabad-500018, to purchase the schedule property bearing municipal No.2, Assessment No.50/4, Katha No.603, BBMP Katha No.50/4, old PID No.50-40-2 new PID No.023-W0233-8 situated at Veeramangalya, Nagawara Dakhale, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now coming under BBMP limits ward No.23 measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South 43 ft in total 1290 sq ft along with 8 squares of RCC roofed house in still floor, 7 sqs in Ground Floor, 7 sqs in the First Floor, and 6 sqs in Second Floor, with vitrified flooring, hove wood for doors and windows, with all civic amenities any person's, Bank/society/Firm or anybody having any rights, title, interest or claims by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, release, trust, inheritance, bequests, possession, lease, easement sale agreement or otherwise over the schedule property or any portion thereof, they may file their objection/s along with documentary proof within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of Publication of this Notice to the Purchaser contact number 9844142693 or 9844351849 failing which it is deemed that there is no impediment to complete the sale transaction and which shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes, my client will proceed on the basis, that there are no objections, claims/interest whatsoever in nature and it will be finalized.

SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing municipal No.2, Assessment No.50/4, Katha No.603, BBMP Katha No.50/4, old PID No.50-40-2 new PID No.023-W0233-8 situated at Veeramangalya, Nagawara Dakhale, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now coming under BBMP limits ward No.23 measuring East to West 30 ft and North to South 43 ft in total 1290 sq ft along with 8 squares of RCC roofed house in still floor, 7 sqs in Ground Floor, 7 sqs in the First Floor, and 6 sqs in Second Floor, with vitrified flooring, hove wood for doors and windows, with all civic amenities and bounded on: East by: Site No.3 belongs to Bharathi and Saroja, West by: Site No.1, North by: Road, South by: Private Property

MOHAN KUMAR, N.B. LL.B., Advocate and Legal Consultant
No.8, 6th Cross, 1st Main, S.R.Nagar, BANGALORE-560 027, Mob.No.98443 51849.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Imphal, the 06th January, 2022

No. CE/WRD/NHP/1-1/2021-22 : The Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department on behalf of the governor of Manipur invites a tender / bid through e-tendering for the bid document No. WRD/NHP/1-5/2021-22.

Name of the Work	Setting up of Level-2 Water Quality Laboratory
Period of Completion	60 days from the date of signing of contract
Availability of bidding document from website	05/01/2022, 10:00 HRS (System Server Time)
Date of online submission of bid through electronic mode	15/01/2022, 10:00 HRS (System Server Time)
Last date of online submission of bid through electronic mode	05/02/2022, 15:00 HRS (System Server Time)
Date, time and venue of opening of bid	05/02/2022, 16:00 HRS (System Server Time) Office of the Superintending Engineer, ICA, Water Resources Department, Khuyathong, Imphal-795001, Manipur.

Details of the document can be downloaded and is to be submitted on-line through e-procurement / e-tender portal <https://manipurenders.gov.in>. All correspondence / communication shall be made to the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Investigation Division, Water Resources Department, Lamphel, Imphal-795004, Manipur, India, Telephone & Fax No. 03852955821, e-mail ID: nhpmnupur@gmail.com.

Sd/- (Songut N Albert), Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Manipur
Nodal Officer (NHP), SPWM,
Imphal, the 06 January 2022
Encl. No : EE/WRD/NHP/1-5/2021-22/130

ANAND CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

No. 116, 2nd Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560020
Phone: Head Office: 23468214,23447829

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Place: Bangalore
Date: 08-01-2022
Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
ANAND CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

FIR against Dileep for threatening investigators

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

THE sensational actor assault case has taken a new turn with the Crime Branch lodging a fresh case against actor **Dileep** and five others based on the statement of film director P Balachandrakumar that the former had allegedly conspired to kill the officers who probed the abduction and rape of an actress inside a moving car in Kochi in 2017. Dileep is the eighth accused in the case, the trial of which is under way at the Ernakulam Additional Special Sessions Court.

The new FIR is against Dileep, his brother Anoop, brother-in-law Suraj, Appu, Baiju Chennaganadu and another identifiable person. They have been charged under sections 116 (abetment of offence punishable with imprisonment), 118 (concealing design to commit offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life), 120B (criminal conspiracy), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (criminal act done by several people) of IPC.

As per the FIR lodged by the

Crime Branch, the accused nursed a grudge towards Baiju Paulose, the investigation officer, for arresting him in the case and initiating legal action. The accused hatched a conspiracy at Padmasarovaram -- the residence of Dileep at Kottarakadavu in Aluva -- to endanger the lives of the officers on November 15, 2011.

"You the five officers are going to suffer... Sojan, Sudarshan, Sandhya, Baiju Paulose and you," Balachandrakumar witnessed Dileep as saying looking at the video in which the then Rural SP A V George was speaking to mediapersons about the case. Sojan, Sudarshan and Sandhya were the top Crime Branch officers who were part of the probe team while Baiju Paulose was the investigation officer. Suraj, the third accused, was heard saying "If a truck or lorry hits Baiju Paulose tomorrow, we would have to look for another ₹1.5 crore."

Meanwhile, the prosecution had moved the HC seeking permission to issue summons to a few witnesses for re-examination.



EXPRESS READ

Alipiri-Tirumala ghat road to open this week

TIRUMALA: The ghat road leading to Tirumala from Alipiri would be open for the devotees to reach the abode of Lord Venkateswara from January 11 night. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) wants to ensure that there are no hassles to the devotees visiting the hill shrine on the auspicious days of Vaikunta Ekadasi and Dwadasi. The 17-km ghat road leading to Tirumala was damaged in December last year, as huge landslides rolled down, due to heavy rain that lashed Tirumala, Tirupati and parts of Rayalaseema.

Volunteers can be roped in for tiger census: Forest dept

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka Forest Department head office has issued a circular to all the divisions, tiger reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and other areas to prepare for the all-India tiger census field exercise.

According to the circular, the line transect and sign survey of the census will be done from January 23-February 7 in all the tiger reserves and habi-

tat areas, and from February 10-28 in other forest patches of Karnataka. The circular also stated that volunteers and forest students can be made a part of the survey exercises, if need be, strictly following all Covid-19 protocols.

"After a lot of deliberation, the department has decided to consider including volunteers. But they must ensure that those keen on serious work are involved and not those just to take photographs for social



media," said a Forest Department official.

The circular also details scat collection of all prey animals -- elephant, sloth bear, wild

boar, sambar deer, spotted deer, and others -- except for carnivores. The samples must be sent to Wildlife Institute of India for assessment.

The officials said that each division is to draw the census dates and share with the head office for final approval, before undertaking the exercise.

The census will be done on the set M-stripe app, approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change.



PRAGATHI CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,

Head Office: No.121, 1st Main, 9th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. Ph.No.080-23365137/23369915
Branch: No.765/B, 3rd Main, HMT Layout, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore-73.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of Pragathi Co-operative Bank Ltd.**, under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgages / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers / Mortgages / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgages and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules on **06.01.2022**.

The Borrowers / Mortgages / Guarantors in particular and the Public in General are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the **Pragathi Co-operative Bank Ltd.**, for an amount interest and Other Charges mentioned below.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower: 1) Smt. Dhruvamani W/o Sonnegowda, No.46, 2nd Cross, Sitappa Block, Near Ganesha Temple, Manorayanapalya, Bangalore-560032. 2) Sri Sonnegowda S/o S. Govindappa, No.46, 2nd Cross, Sitappa Block, Near Ganesha Temple, Manorayanapalya, Bangalore-560032. **Total amount mentioned in the notice:** Rs.98,11,361=00 (Rupees Ninety Eight Lakhs Eleven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty One Only) as on **22.10.2021** and interest + expenses thereon.

Demand Notice Dated: 25.10.2021
Description of the Immovable Property: All the piece and parcel of the Southern portion of Property No.5, Municipal New No.52, PID No.96-85-52, Seethappa Layout, Khatha No.39/1, Assessment No.45/3A, and 49/4, Cholanayakanahalli, Dakale, Manorayanapalya, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and Measuring East to West: 63 feet and North to South: 27 feet, and the building consists of 3 floor and bounded as: East by: Road, West by: Ramiah's Property, North by: Remaining Portion of the same property, South by: Ravikumar's Property.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower: 1) Sri Sonnegowda S/o Govindappa, No.46, 2nd Cross, Sitappa Block, Near Ganesha Temple, Manorayanapalya, Bangalore-560032. 2) Smt. Dhruvamani W/o Sonnegowda, No.46, 2nd Cross, Sitappa Block, Near Ganesha Temple, Manorayanapalya, Bangalore-560032. **Total amount mentioned in the notice:** Rs.1,03,24,511=00 (Rupees One Crore Three Lakhs Twenty Four Thousand Five Hundred Eleven Only) as on **22.10.2021** and interest + expenses thereon.

Demand Notice Dated: 25.10.2021
Description of the Immovable Property: All that piece and parcel of the house property bearing No.5, Municipal No.52, PID No.96-85-52, Sitappa Layout, Khatha No.39/1, Assessment No.45/3A, and 49/4, Cholanayakanahalli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore by measuring East to West: 63 feet and North to South: 27 feet, and the building consists of three floors building and Bounded as: East by: Road, West by: Ramiah's Property, North by: Same Number North portion of property, South by: G. Ravikumar's Property.

Date: 06.01.2022
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
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INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

IT'S TESTING TIME FOR THE ELECTION COMMISSION TOO

The upcoming elections to five states are as much a test for political parties as they are for the Election Commission of India. While polling begins on February 10 and the outcome will be known on March 10, the popular verdict on the EC's ability to deal with multiple challenges will be known much before that. For, its standing as an independent constitutional authority was badly bruised during the last round of Assembly polls when the second Covid wave was on. This time around, the EC has banned poll rallies and road shows till January 15, adding any relaxation will be subject to reassessment after that date. With the third wave just starting to build up, the situation can only worsen in the next couple of months before it stabilises. It's difficult to imagine how the poll body will get any wriggle room to ease the curbs, though it has issued instructions on mass rallies, including creating mask kiosks at the venue, ensuring proper distancing, capping attendance and making district magistrates accountable for lapses. Also, candidates and parties flouting the restrictions will not get permission in future. The best available options then would be door-to-door contact—when surreptitious voter bribing often happens—and holding virtual rallies.

The other important challenge is to address criminalisation of politics. Parties have been directed to write to the EC within 48 hours of selecting any candidate with a criminal record as to why and how the choice was made. It must include the person's qualitative achievements, including public service, and not just harp on winnability. Those delaying the communication will be reported to the Supreme Court to face contempt charges. But it remains to be seen if the directive will prod parties to deny tickets to goonda elements and bring sobriety to politics.

The third big problem is to enforce the period of silence before polling day on social media. Though the EC expects platforms to enforce their voluntary code of ethics on those days, how effectively it can be implemented to tackle toxicity is uncertain. Anyway, if the poll watchdog shows it is even-handed in both its bark and bite, it can expect to regain its lost glory.

HANDLING OF DJOKOVIC ISSUE BY OZ NOT IDEAL

Just when Novak Djokovic was slowly gaining more acceptance among tennis fans, the Australian visa fiasco has happened. The men's World No 1, with 20 Grand Slams against his name, has never been a crowd favourite like Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal. Even after numerous titles, he is viewed as a gatecrasher of a beautiful party. The current situation in Australia may not be his fault entirely, but it is going to hurt him. The Serb was questioned by the Australian Border Force the moment he landed in Melbourne. After questioning that lasted for over eight hours, the nine-time Australian Open champion was sent to a detention facility where immigrants are held if found entering without legitimate grounds or papers. Perhaps, for a star this treatment can be termed harsh. Yes, he may have his idiosyncrasies, but in the end, he is an exceptional sportsperson.

Djokovic, a strong critic of vaccination, has refused to take the jab, and the issue has divided the world. He has always argued it is a matter of personal choice. The Australian government maintained that those without double vaccination cannot enter the nation. But leaked reports suggest Tennis Australia had written to players that if they have been infected by the virus since July 2021, they need not take the vaccine. There are charges that the matter has been politicised with Australia heading to an election this year.

Former World No. 1 Rafael Nadal, a supporter of vaccination, had a very apt observation: "He made his own decisions, and everybody's free to take their own decisions, but then there are some consequences." And it's this consequence that is sparking outrage, especially in Australia where the citizens have faced harsh lockdowns, and some support among fans too. But there are a few things Australia could have done. Djokovic could have been stopped before taking the flight. Tennis Australia should have told him the clear picture. It is not a situation even Djokovic would want to be in. Like Nick Kyrgios has said on Twitter: "... how we are handling Novak's situation is bad, really bad... this is one of our great champions but at the end of the day, he is human." The Australian Open begins on January 17 but for now, all eyes will be on a federal court that will be hearing Djokovic's legal challenge on Monday.



Yes, I aspire to be a happy yogi in all situations ... but the crying babies ... and stench of the overflowing toilets ... Who am I now? Who allowed these prickly sensations to spin a web that is leaving me irritable and alone?

Mingyur Rinpoche

Communalism can be resisted, not by a different version of it, but only by constitutionalism. The politics of hatred needs to be checked by politics of love and inclusiveness

LEGISLATING EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY

KALEESWARAM RAJ



Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

The quality of governance is reflected in the executive as well as legislative acts. Divisive policies based on hatred can only lead to divisive and exclusionary legislations. Such laws are now enacted, reducing people into mere believers of one religion or another. These lawmakers do not view the people as citizens with multiple identities and independent thoughts. The laws meddle with social relations and personal intimacies as it occurred with the so-called anti-love jihad legislations. The rampant misuse of such laws further accelerates social divisions. No wonder that crowd lynching, hate crimes and communal conflicts are the new normal in the country.

On the other hand, a good policy can create egalitarian laws. In Tamil Nadu, non-Brahmins were appointed as priests in temples that belong to the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, in tune with the poll promise by the ruling political front. In Kerala too, non-Brahmins including Dalits were appointed as priests in the temples under the Travancore Devaswom Board. These are, indeed, laudable gestures.

The fight against the caste system in India is not yet over. Caste remains a dominant factor in perpetuating societal disparity. There are also other factors such as sex and sexual orientation, marital status, disability, occupation, place

of birth, etc., based on which many exclusionary practices continue. Discrimination often occurs by looking at language, food habits or even personal characteristics. When a woman is denied employment in private firms due to her gender, when a Dalit is denied entry to a hair-cutting saloon because of caste, when a transgender person is refused rental accommodation because of sexual orientation ... one finds a long saga of private discrimination in society. This historically evolved bias and prejudice create martyrs when they reach their aggravated form. Honour killings and some of the Dalit suicides in India demonstrate this phenomenon.

These realities must be addressed not only by social reformers but by lawmakers as well. Harmful social practices and discrimination need to be legally addressed and effectively tackled. We need to learn how to legislate for the good, and how to take citizens as equals, in the constitutional sense. We need to reiterate the equality clauses contained in Articles 14, 15 and 16 of the fundamental law, both in public and private lives.

The move for anti-discriminatory laws in India has a short history. The Sachar committee report (2006) recommended promulgation of such laws. Shashi Tharoor introduced a private Equality Bill in

Parliament in 2017 that lapsed in 2019. There is no possibility of any such enactment by the Centre, given the political attitude of the present dispensation.

But the state governments can make a difference. Going by Entry 8 (actionable wrong), Entry 11 (administration of justice) and Entry 20 (social planning) under the concurrent list in the 7th Schedule of the Constitution, the state governments can enact equality statutes by focusing on regional and social specificities. Professor Tarunabh Khaitan from the University of Oxford and legal scholar Arvind Kurian Abraham have laid the thematic premise for such legislation and placed their suggestions in public domain. A draft Bill was submitted before the Department of Law in Kerala, which has now referred it to the Department of Social Justice.



SOURYADIP SINHA

The Bill placed in the Lok Sabha earlier by Tharoor is instructive for states as well. It tried to prevent discrimination based on "protective characteristics" that include caste, ethnicity, descent, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, disability, religious or linguistic identity, nationality, marital status, food preference, skin tone and numerous other characteristics. It sought to prevent discrimination at workplace, service centres, lodges, clubs, etc., and dealt with various instances of human interactions and transactions. It tried to protect the disadvantaged from the vices of harassment, boycott, segregation and violence. It attempted to provide a voice for the voiceless and designed a platform for them to place their grievances. An Equality Commission and an effective administrative mechanism under it were accordingly proposed. The Bill suggested to empower the authorities to intervene in concrete cases of discrimination and order damages or training or diversification measures. Investigation into complaints about harassment or victimisation was contemplated. The Bill sought to evolve preventive mechanisms against the evils of human apathy. It thrived to promote welfareism and diversity. The Bill intended to arm magistrates with the power to issue protection orders to tackle aggravated forms of discrimination.

Fraternity and equality are great ideas interlinked with the notions of justice and liberty, as the Preamble of the Constitution proclaims. A legislation also epitomises a political culture. It can be emancipatory and revolutionary. Passing of comprehensive equality and anti-discrimination laws by states can enhance the quality of social justice. The Racial Discrimination Act in Australia (1975), the Equality Act in the UK (2010) and the Civil Rights Act in the US (1964) are some illustrative instances.

Communalism can be resisted, not by a different version of it, but only by constitutionalism. The politics of hatred needs to be checked by politics of love, inclusiveness, pluralism and compassion. One finds a great revolution taking place in Tamil Nadu in terms of governance, under the exemplary leadership of Chief Minister M K Stalin. Many across the world appreciate it and anticipate better things to happen for the well-being of the public at large. To the progressive measures taken by the Tamil Nadu Government in recent times, a democratised version of an anti-discrimination law would be a fine supplement. Enacting such laws is an imperative for all the other states, which are committed to constitutional governance.

(Kaleeswaramraj@gmail.com)
(Tweets @KaleeswaramR)

DIDARGANJ TO KALLIYANKADU, THE YAKSHI STORY

JAYARAM PODUVAL



Head, Department of Art History, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda

A COUNTRY OF MANY GODS

On December 24 last year, one of the most popular directors of the Malayalam film industry, K S Sethumadhavan, passed away. Reading through the obituaries and his filmography, one of his movies caught my eye. The film was *Yakshi*, released in 1968 based on a novel by the same name by Malayattoor Ramakrishnan published a year earlier. But even before the movie's release, the stories of yakshis were very much in the popular imagination of Malayalis. Kottarathil Sankunni, in his collection of legends of Kerala titled *Aithihyamala* and published in early 20th century, brings in the story of few yakshis along with their tormentors like Surya Kaladi Bhattathiri and Kadamattathu Kathanar.

In these stories, yakshis with their bewitching beauty would entice their victims, usually travellers passing through scantily populated regions. Due to their magic spell, the *saptaparni* (Indian devil tree) would bloom with its intoxicating fragrance and the travellers would see a palatial mansion—

which in reality was the palmyra palm tree, the abode of these yakshis. After reaching the top of the trees, these dazzling damsels would transform into ferocious ogresses and devour their victims. In some of the cases, the victims would escape these torments due to the protection they receive through some miracle or holy book. In one of the stories, Chamravattathu Yakshi falls in love with her victim and spares his life and even enters into a secret relationship with him. On the other hand, Kalliyankaattu Neeli's story is more dramatic and narrates her gruesome murder by her own lover. Neeli's name is associated with Kalliyankadu in southern Travancore and we find references to her in different ballads from the region. In addition to this, *Marthanda Varma* by C V Raman Pillai, one of the earliest Malayalam novels, also mentions her. Neeli was more ferocious and had a long list of victims and is said to have surrendered to Kadamattathu Kathanar, a well-known exorcist in Kerala who encaptured her in Pa-

nayannarkavu temple in Pathanamthitta district. My idea about the yakshis as a Keralite was well fostered by the legends expounded by Kottarathil Sankunni and movies like *Yakshi* (1968) and *Kalliyankaattu Neeli* (1978). These popular media created a picture of yakshis as blood-sucking vampires.

When I started learning art history, I got introduced to more yakshis, this time from north India. Mauryan-period yakshis of Didarganj, Patna and Vidisha with voluptuous physique, Kushana-period yakshis of Bhuteswar with nonchalant nakedness and Gyaraspur Yakshi, they all smiled at me enchantingly from the volumes on Indian art. The difference was that they were not the poltergeists from horror movies but embodiments of beauty and the representation

of abundance. The palmyra palm and the palatial house on its top disappeared; so did the enticing fragrance of the *saptaparni* tree. The only story close to the Kerala yakshis came from Buddhist tradition in the form of Jataka, known as *Simhala Avadana Jataka*, where Simhala, a merchant along with his friends reaches the shores of Tamradvipa inhabited by the ogresses who disguised themselves as beautiful women. In the Jataka, these ogresses are never designated as yakshis because of the fact that in the Buddhist and Jain traditions, the yakshis and their male counterparts, yakshas, are protectors of the village and reside on the pipal or banyan trees. They are usually handsome and beautiful, representing the fertility cult. Many of them are represented with children as in the case of Ambika, the yakshi associated with Neminatha, the 22nd Jain Thirthankara. Buddhism has Hariti, an ogress converted by the Buddha as the protector of children.

The ferocious mother goddesses as the protectors of children and villages are also popular in Tamil culture. German scholar Heinrich Zimmer refers to a tree spirit known as Taalavasini who resided in the palmyra palm tree according to ancient Tamil legends. In the southern part of Kerala, one can observe the worship of Madan, a folk deity who got appropriated into the Brahmanical pantheon as

the son of Siva. Madan is the protective spirit of the villages (*kaval daivam*) accompanied by yakshis and other female deities. Most of the shrines exclusively dedicated to yakshis are in present-day Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts, with one or two in the Kochi region. Some of the shrines would be attached to Bhagavati temples as in the case of Panayannarkavu. Surprisingly the shrines for these semi-divine spirits are non-existent in the Malabar region, probably for the reason that these kinds of spirits were already incorporated in the Teyyam and Tirai tradition.

The yakshis also appear to be part of the Tantric tradition where they are classified into 36 types. The character of yakshis in Kerala seems to be having close affinity to those of Tantric tradition. This is because the state was one of the last bastions of Tantric Buddhism and an existing centre of Brahmanical Tantric tradition. However, as the yakshi cult is non-existent in north Kerala, it is safe to place them closer to the Tamil tradition.

In conclusion, one may state that the yakshis of Kerala have their origin in the Tamil tradition as tree spirits and protectors who have been given an Aryan name, just because of their enchanting beauty and bewitching smile.

(This is an article in the ongoing series by the author on pre-modern visual culture of Kerala) (jpoduval@gmail.com)

MAIL BAG WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

EC move commendable

The move by the Election Commission to ban physical rallies, roadshows and public meetings till January 15 owing to the ongoing pandemic is commendable. The EC also vowed to make polls 'Covid-safe' and urged political parties and candidates to hold virtual rallies in the upcoming elections in five states—Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Goa, Punjab and Uttarakhand.

NJ Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Polls vital for democracy

The Election Commission has done extremely well to ban physical rallies, road shows and public meetings till January 15 in poll-bound states. Virtual rallies have, however, been allowed.

This unprecedented move has been necessitated as the country is now recording nearly 1.5 lakh new Covid cases daily. The CEC's attempt to shepherd elections in these trying times on the premise that polls are essential to maintaining democratic governance is appreciable.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

NEET and TNPS

It is strange that when most of the states have accepted NEET for admission to medical courses, there are protests from just one. The Tamil Nadu government had taken a pragmatic decision for recruitment to PSUs and government corporations through competitive examinations held

by TNPS. Similarly, NEET will ensure that quality medical professionals are available for service.

K Chandrasekaran, Chennai

A lot is in one's name

This is with reference to *Listen to electron & his brothers* (Jan 9). What's in a name? A lot, as the author beautifully describes the nuances and hardships associated with one's name in his column. The British monarchs used to have names like James I, James II, Joseph Sr or Joseph Jr. And people in India have names like Ravan, Karn or Shakun and a majority of them also affix their caste along with it for pride. To add to this, our politicians know how to use this to fool voters. Meanwhile,

authors hide their names and identities using pseudonyms. And there are many who will object to saying 'Jai Hind' and 'Hindustan' by labelling it as anti-secular and hurting minority sentiments.

Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Cop's inhuman act

This is with reference to the report *Police officer kicks, slaps man in train for 'illegal travel'* (Jan 4). This is an inhuman act by the railway police official and the picture that appeared in the newspaper spoke volumes. Torture and misbehaviour by police personnel in Kerala are nowadays making the headlines often. The cops are supposed to protect the life and property of the people, and

strict and immediate action including dismissal from service can be taken in the above case.

V K Kumar, Thiruvananthapuram

Djokovic not more equal

Novak Djokovic is a legendary tennis celebrity and is equal with Federer and Nadal in the number of Grand Slam titles. Why should a high-quality sportsman like the Serbian legend tarnish his status by being sceptical about taking vaccines? Australia has clear rules about vaccine administration and what Djokovic has done is not right. The tennis ace cannot be more equal than others, especially when it comes to pandemic protocols.

Sanath Kumar TS, Thrissur

Rise in lone wolf attacks sign of desperation

MHA data shows terrorists are avoiding direct conflict with security forces to avoid losses, going for IED attacks

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

PUSHED to the brink by a string of successful counter-insurgency operations, terrorists are increasingly resorting to lone-wolf attacks against security forces in Kashmir, data obtained from the Ministry of Home Affairs shows.

The rising trend of terrorists using grenades and IEDs, clearly points out at the desperation of the terror groups, which are getting increasingly wary of engaging in full-scale encounters.

While 1 IED attack was carried out in 2020, 8 such attacks were carried out in 2021. While forces diffused 51 IEDs in 2021, this figure was 38 in the previous year. Grenade attacks also increased from 55 to 58. En-

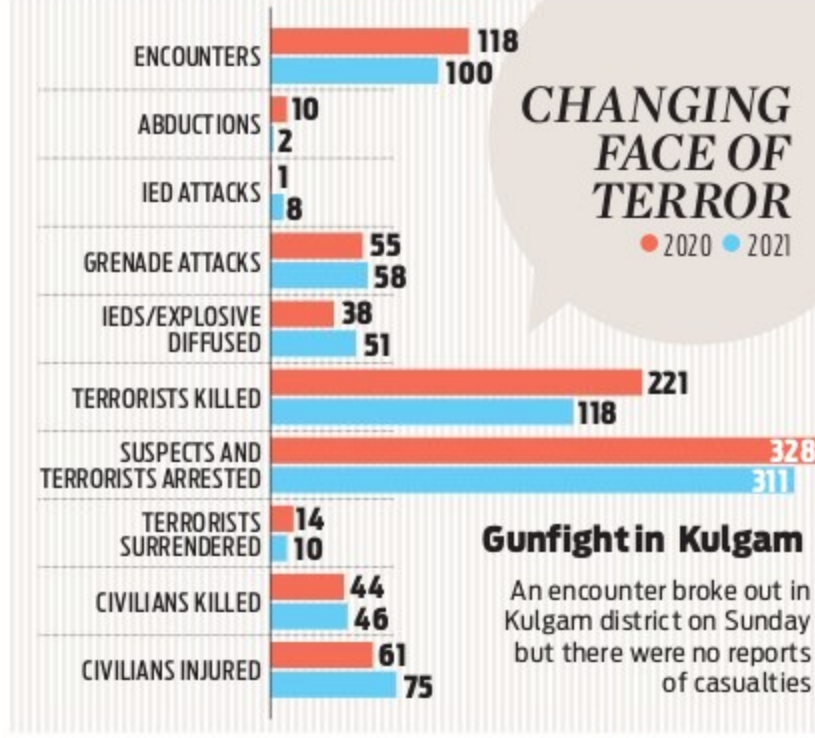
counters dropped from 118 in 2020 to 100 in 2021. Consequently, the number of terrorists apprehended and killed also dropped last year.

Sources in the ministry attributed the fall in encounters and the rise in lone-wolf attacks to better coordination among the police, the CRPF and the Army. Moreover, the extra vigil along the LoC and the International Border, with the forces foiling repeated bids to push in arms and cadre, is being credited with pushing terror groups on the back foot, and forcing terrorists to carry out lone-wolf attacks in a desperate bid to stay relevant.

However, data exclusively accessed by *TNIE* also suggests a worrying trend. Last year, civilian casualties rose from 44 to

46. In 2020, 38 civilians were killed by terrorists while six died in firings by security forces. Last year, 41 civilians were killed by terrorists whereas five died in encounters and firings by security forces.

Also, the civilian injuries in such standoff rose from 61 to 75. "There was an overall improvement in the security situation in J&K last year owing to better coordination among security agencies, better intelligence gathering and deradicalisation measures taken up by security forces," said a senior official of home ministry. "Besides October and December, the months which recorded a spate in killings of civilians and security forces, last year was relatively not too tense for security forces and civilians."



Coast Guard personnel with the apprehended crew of the Pak boat | DEFENCE PRO

Pak boat with 10 crew caught off Gujarat coast

AHMEDABAD: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has caught a Pakistani boat with 10 crew members in the Indian waters off the Gujarat coast.

The fishing boat, 'Yaseen', was intercepted by ICG vessel 'Ankit' during an operational patrol on Saturday night, an official said. The crew, when questioned, could not justify their presence in the Indian waters in the Arabia Sea, the official added.

On seeing the Indian ship, the Pakistani boat attempted to flee back towards the Pakistani waters but the ICG vessel, despite poor weather and visibility conditions, moved

swiftly and intercepted it. The boat Yaseen, registered at Ketibandar, was found in possession of approximately 2,000 kg of fish and 600 litres of diesel. The boat, along with the crew, is being towed to Porbandar for detailed investigation and interrogation, the ICG said.

The Coast Guard has been extra vigilant of late since traffickers from Pakistan have been trying to use the Gujarat coast as a transit route to smuggle narcotics into India.

Last month, the ICG had, in a joint operation with Gujarat ATS, apprehended a Pakistani fishing boat carrying 77 kg heroin worth ₹400 crore. *ENS*

HATE CRIME

India asks US to probe attack on Sikh cabbie

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Indian Consulate in New York has taken serious note of the assault on a Sikh taxi driver at the JFK International Airport and asked American authorities to investigate the incident.

A 26-second video uploaded by a Twitter user on January 4, showed a man assaulting the Sikh driver outside the airport.

"The assault against a Sikh taxi driver is deeply disturbing. We have taken up the matter with US authorities and urged them to investigate this violent incident," the Consulate General tweeted.

The US State Department came out with a statement saying perpetrators of hate crimes

should be held accountable for their actions, no matter where such crimes occur.

The National Sikh Campaign condemned the hate crime, saying the incident happened "only a few days into the new year".

"For those who aren't Sikh, I can't put into words what it means to have your turban knocked off or to see someone else's turban knocked off. It's visceral and gut-wrenching..." Simran Jeet Singh, director for Aspen Institute's Inclusive America Project, tweeted.

This is not the first such case in the US. An Indian-origin Sikh Uber driver was in 2019 assaulted and racially abused in Washington. Another such case was reported earlier in 2017 in New York.

R-Day alert sounded in Delhi, five states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

SECURITY forces have sounded alert following intelligence inputs of a possible terror attack ahead of Republic Day.

Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and major cities in all five poll-bound states are put on high alert. Detailed directions have also been issued for ensuring Republic Day ceremonies in the

capital and other parts of the country remain peaceful.

Intelligence inputs suggest that terrorists plan to target high-profile leaders and security forces campuses, vital government building, crowded markets and places such as railway stations, and religious places.

The Centre has directed all security and intelligence agencies to maintain total coordina-

tion with sister agencies and other stakeholders.

"All unit control rooms and centres should be manned suitably round-the-clock for quick sharing of information and effective co-ordination," stated an official communication.

The Centre has also directed top security and police officers to deploy quick action teams should be deployed at suitable and strategic places such as airports.

Covid blast in Parl ahead of Budget

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

BARELY a few weeks away for the Budget session, Parliament is battling with its own Covid tsunami as over 400 staff have tested positive in the week gone by.

According to sources, 69 of Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 200 of Lok Sabha Secretariat and 133 of allied services tested positive in the January 4-8 period.

Sources said random checks in the first week started revealing the extent of the infections, forcing both the secretariat of Lok and Rajya Sabhas to go for restrictive measures, including work from home.

Earlier, the winter session was adjourned sine die a day ahead of its schedule after BSP MP Danish Ali had tested positive.

The secretariats are learnt to have asked 50 per cent of its staff below the ranks of undersecretary to work from home. "The roster duty system is out for work from home. There were apprehensions



Security personnel on duty near Parliament House during Covid weekend curfew in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

among the staff that some colleagues despite symptoms were reporting to their offices. Tests were held which revealed the large extent of Covid affecting the staff members," said a senior official.

"Due to increase in corona cases, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has re-imposed restrictions on attendance of officials and staff. As per the latest directions, 50 per cent

of officials and staff below the rank of Under Secretary/Executive officer are required to work from home till the end of this month. They constitute about 65 per cent of the total employees," said the official. "Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has reviewed the situation with the secretary general, the advisor and directed that necessary measures be taken to contain the spread of

virus among Secretariat officials and staff ahead of the Budget session."

Those with disabilities and pregnant women are exempted from attending office. Timings are staggered to avoid crowding, while meetings are being held virtually.

Naidu directed that all staff should be tested and recovery of the infected shall be closely monitored and assisted.

Major test goof-up of Amritsar flyers

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A majority of passengers, who had tested positive after returning from Italy in two chartered flights, have been found not infected in re-testing.

Officials have now ordered a probe against a private laboratory as the passengers alleged that their test reports were false.

Sources said that most of the passengers in two batches — 175 and 125 — who returned last week (January 5 and 6) in two different chartered flights to Amritsar from Rome tested positive at the Shri Guru Ramdas International Airport.

"A probe has been initiated by the Airports Authority of

India against the alleged errant working of the laboratory. The services of the existing Delhi-based laboratory have been suspended," Assistant Civil Surgeon Dr Amarjit Singh said. "The lab was engaged on December 15 last year by the AAI. Now a new local laboratory has resumed its working at the airport."

The passengers had raised a hue and cry at the airport that they were negative when they boarded the flights after their RT-PCR tests. How come could they turn positive once they landed, they had questioned.

The passengers were asked to undergo institutional quarantine. However, when they refused, authorities at Amrit-

sar allowed them to go to their native places where these passengers got their Covid tests done again. In those tests, their reports turned out to be negative.

A passenger on the condition of anonymity said: "I travelled with my family. We were negative when we boarded the flight, but when we landed in Amritsar all of us tested positive. How is it possible?"

On Saturday, out of the 194 passengers which came on an Air India flight from Birmingham (United Kingdom), 25 tested positive and were sent for home quarantine.

All European countries, including Italy, have been categorised as risk countries by the Union Health Ministry.

Imams offer facilities for isolation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

IMAMS and prominent faces of minority community at Hariharpara, a mixed populated pocket in Muslim dominated Murshidabad district, has offered the local administration to use boarding accommodations of madrasas as safe homes or quarantine centres.

Setting up an example of amity, the leaders of the community asked their followers to stand beside the people in distress irrespective of their religious colour. Imposing religious restrictions, the imams urged Muslims to offer prayer at home instead of turning up at the mosques to ensure social distancing. During regular prayer session, awareness messages are being delivered using the loudspeakers of mosques.

Hariharpara is a pocket which depends on agriculture-based economy.

Nizamuddin Biswas, Imam of Murshidabad district, who is also a member of Waqf Board, West Bengal, said since the schools are not operational, the hostels of madrasas are lying vacant. "We told the district administration to utilise the hostels as state-run quarantine centres. Since most of the people in Hariharpara work as daily labourers, they reside in single-room or double-room accommodation with families where isolation is not possible. If they test positive, their presence at home will pose harm to other family members," said Biswas.

Similarly, Sripur Jumma Masjid imam Mufti Israil said the restrictions imposed by the Bengal government are being announced by using loudspeakers of the mosque every day. "While announcing the restrictions, we are also requesting the people of our community not to assemble at the mosque for namaz. We advised them to offer prayer at home," he said.

Now police go after Sulli Deals, nab creator

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi/Bhopal

IN the first arrest of people behind the Sulli Deals hate app, the Delhi Police nabbed its alleged creator in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police KPS Malhotra, accused Aumkareshwar Thakur (26), a BCA graduate, admitted that he was a member of the 'Tradmahasabha' Twitter group where the idea to defame Muslim women was shared. "He had developed the code. The photos of Muslim women were uploaded by the group members," the officer said. Thakur was arrested on Saturday.

The police said Thakur joined the group in January 2020 using the handle @gangescion. "After the uproar regarding the app, he deleted all his social media footprints," the DCP added.

For his part, the accused's fa-

No info about arrest, say Indore Police

The Indore Police on Sunday said the Delhi Police have not shared any information with them about the arrest. Police Commissioner Harinarayanchari Mishra said they only found out about the arrest through the media

ther, A K Thakur, claimed his son was innocent. They live in the New York City Township in Indore. "We hail from Bihar, but have been living in Indore since 1989. Both my sons have been bright and intelligent students," he said. His other son is a techie.

Perhaps emboldened by the lack of action against Sulli Deals, a new app, Bulli Bai, did an encore recently. Four persons connected to it have been arrested, including Niraj Bishnoi (21), the alleged mastermind. Bishnoi revealed the identity of Thakur to the police.

NEET PG counselling for medical admissions to begin from January 12: Health minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

COUNSELLING for NEET postgraduate admission will begin from January 12, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Sunday.

"NEET-PG counselling is being started by MCC from January 12, 2022, following the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court,

as assured by the Ministry of Health to the resident doctors. This will give more strength to the country in the fight against Covid-19. My best wishes to all the candidates," the health minister tweeted.

The announcement comes two days after the apex court, in an interim order, allowed resumption of medical counsel-

ling for NEET-PG admissions for 2021-22. On January 7, the top court also upheld the validity of 27 per cent OBC and 10 per cent EWS quotas.

The NEET-PG exam was held on September 11, 2021, after being rescheduled twice in January and April. The results were declared in the last week of September following which stu-

dents for nearly 45,000 post-graduate seats were waiting for the counselling to begin.

Resident doctors of various medical colleges across the entire country last month held protests and boycotted work demanding expedition of the counselling. On January 7, the Supreme Court stated that there was an "urgent need" to

begin the admission process. The criteria for the determination of EWS notified by the office memorandum 2019, including ₹8 lakh annual income criterion, will be used for identifying the EWS category for candidates, who appeared for the NEET-PG 2021 and NEET-UG 2021 examinations, it had said.

However, the top court specified that the validity of the criteria determined by the Committee for identification of EWS would prospectively for the future be subject to the final result of the petitions challenging the previous order.

The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) had said that every year ap-

proximately 45,000 candidates are selected as post graduate (PG) doctors through the NEET-PG and delay in counselling has led to a situation where no junior doctors have been inducted 2021. Second and third-year PG doctors are handling patients and are facing increased workload due to the pandemic, FORDA had said.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	19	8	Mumbai	26	20
Bhopal	20	10	Panaji	27	19
Jaipur	17	6	Patna	24	14
Amritsar	16	6	Lucknow	20	9
Chennai	30	25	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	28	18	Imphal	24	6
Srinagar	7	-3	Chandigarh	19	4

UP'S MUSLIM VOTERS IN SEARCH OF LOST RELEVANCE

Minority votes getting divided since 2014, leading to their declining clout and helping BJP

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE Muslim vote is the most potent force in Uttar Pradesh around which the ambitions of every 'secular party' revolve. As per the 2011 census, the community forms around 19% of the population, capable enough to swing the political fortunes of all parties.

But that was until 2014 after which reverse polarisation neutralised the significance of the Muslim vote bank. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the hardcore Hindutva got a huge traction among UP voters. Coupled with it was some deft caste manoeuvring of the saffron brigade and it ensured a landslide win for the BJP. The support for BJP was so formidable that it left the Muslim vote almost irrelevant. It was a repeat show in both the 2017 Assembly and the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

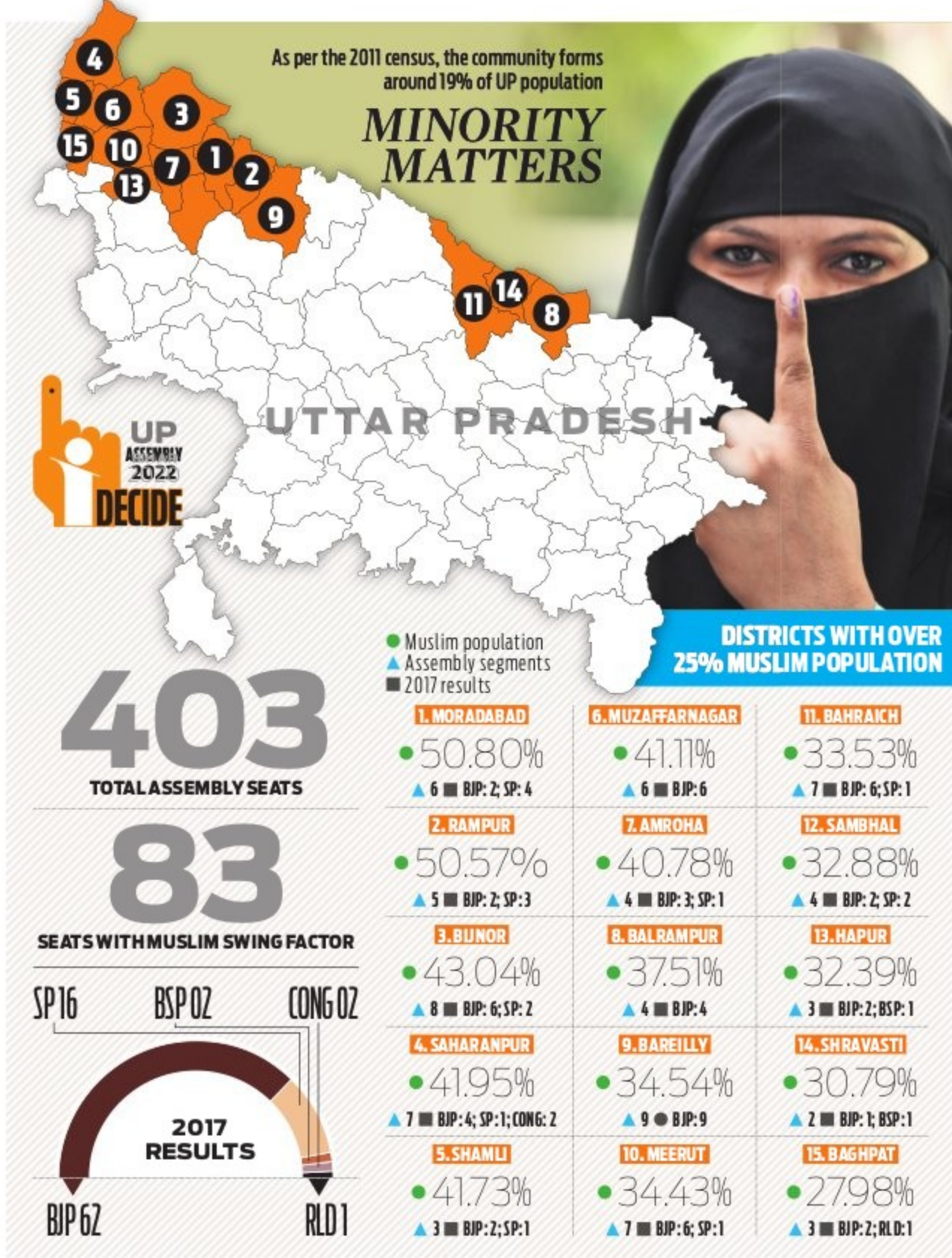
As a consequence, the number of Muslim representation has been dwindling since 2014. That year none of the Muslim candidate could reach the Lok Sabha from UP, in 2019, only six of them could win their seats. In the state Assembly, the number of Muslim MLAs was 63 in 2012, it slipped to 25 in 2017.

The trend shows that Muslim representation in the legislature is inversely proportional to the strength of the BJP. Whenever the BJP has had a clear edge over its rivals, the Muslim representation has declined. In the 1991 Assembly polls, when the BJP formed its first majority government in the state by winning 221 seats in a 425-member House, only 23 Muslim candidates could make it to the House, making only 5.4% of the total strength.

In corresponding years when the BJP lost power and became weak, Muslim representation went up. It rose to over 17%, close to their share in the state population. In 2012 when the Samajwadi Party won 224 of the 403 seats and made a majority government, 68 Muslim MLAs, the highest ever, made it to the Assembly. The BJP won only 47 seats that year.

In the current Assembly, Muslim lawmakers make only 6.2% of the total strength. It reflects the marginalisation of the community in policy-making. "It's not only about numbers, the slide in the community's representation also means almost no role for it in policy-making, which doesn't augur well for almost one-fifth of the state's population," said Maulana Khalid Rashid Pirangimahi, member, All India Muslim personal Law Board.

In the coming polls, Muslim



voters appear desperate to re-establish their significance. The community doesn't want to make any "mistake" that can lead to the division of their votes, helping the BJP as a result. For this to happen, Muslim leaders and opinion-makers need non-BJP parties to do well.

"They (the BJP) don't even want our votes, let alone our representatives because their politics is to unite everyone against us," said a Muslim academic at Aligarh Muslim University.

But how the community will ensure that their votes are not divided appears unclear to them also at this stage. "Defeating the BJP is a big factor. But not all Muslims are able to judge that accurately. Other factors also matter such as the candidate, the party, village level dynamics and local rivalries," said a senior cleric of

Darul Uloom Deoband. "Had all Muslims voted for one strong party, the BJP would not have come to power in 2017," he added.

The Muslim community has been banking on tactical voting. Most political observers believe the community waits till the last moment before voting for the strongest candidate to defeat the BJP. Tactical voting could become even more pronounced in this election following fears about the Citizenship Amendment Act.

But some feel the tactical voting has been counter productive. "The community's tactic to vote for the candidate best placed to defeat the BJP hasn't worked in the past three elections. Therefore, it may unitedly support one party that is in a position to challenge the BJP. And it's obviously the Samajwadi Party," said Prof AK Mishra, a political scientist.

A major chunk of the minority community finds the Akhilesh Yadav-led SP to be the only party capable of taking on the BJP. But queering the pitch is the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen of Assaduddin Owaisi.

"Owaisi has been able to convince a section of the Muslims that secular parties such as the SP, Congress and the BSP have used them merely as a vote bank, forgetting them after getting power," said Prof Mishra.

But Owaisi had fielded candidates in 2017 too, failing to win any seat. But he dented the prospects of several Muslim candidates fielded by secular parties by taking away a chunk of the minority votes, benefitting the BJP. There is a real chance of this being repeated in this election even as the Muslims search for a political entity that will unite their votes and stop the BJP juggernaut.

SP seeks removal of 4 UP officials, says they are acting like BJP workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Lucknow

THE Samajwadi Party, which has emerged as the main challenger to the ruling BJP in the upcoming Assembly polls in UP, has written to the Election Commission seeking removal of a few top bureaucrats in the state alleging that they have been functioning more as BJP workers and are very close to the present dispensation.

The main opposition party has accused additional chief secretary (home) Avanish Awasthi, additional chief secretary (DIPR) Navneet Sehgal, UP ADG (law and order) Prashant Kumar, and ADG and UP STF chief Amitabh Yash of acting as BJP "karyakartas".

Through the letter, which is undersigned by party national secretary Rajendra Chaudhury, the party has sought the removal of these bureaucrats, stating it necessary "to ensure free and fair elections". The SP made the move a day after the Model Code of Conduct came into effect as the EC on Saturday announced the schedule for elec-



Akhilesh Yadav addresses party functionaries in UP on Sunday | TWITTER

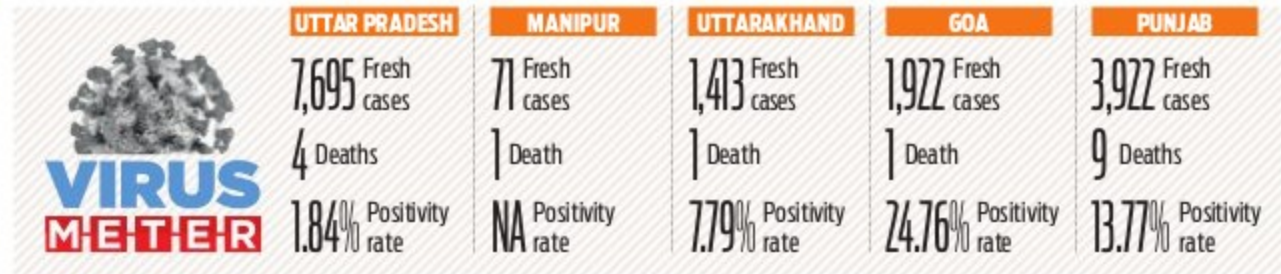
tion to the Assemblies of Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand.

Awasthi is believed to be quite close to CM Yogi Adityanath. Besides helming the home department, Awasthi has also been supervising the expressway projects in the state as the CEO of UP Expressway and Industrial Development Authority (UPIEDA).

Sehgal has been brought to one of the most significant posts in the state just 1.5 years back. He was believed to be close to former CMs Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati during their respective regimes. In-

tially, Sehgal was given comparatively insignificant assignments for the first three years of Yogi government but he came back to prominence after taking over as ACS, Information. Sehgal is also looking after the MSME department which is behind the flagship scheme One District One Product (ODOP), which is close to the heart of the CM.

Seeking removal of police brass is seen as a usual practice followed by any opposition party. However, both Kumar and Yash are also considered quite close to the present dispensation.



Congress starts virtual campaign aimed at creating 'Digital Punjab'

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

WITH the Election Commission barring physical rallies owing to rising Covid-19 cases, the Punjab Congress is strengthening its digital outreach measures further. The

social media war room set up by the state Congress has more than 10,000 WhatsApp groups and the party is reaching out to people at booth level via Facebook, WhatsApp and other digital means. The ruling party on Sunday kick started its digital campaign, as per the Election Commission suggestion, and unveiled the 'Punjab Model', aimed at governance reforms through digitisation and making a 'Digital Punjab'.

Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu said the party has already been emphasising on the importance of digitisation and maintaining

virtual interactions with the electorate. Claiming that Punjab Congress has maximum engagement and outreach in digital space in the state, he said the grand old party is ready for online campaigns, coordinating with workers and leaders at booth, constituency and district levels.

"Our social media war room already has more than 10,000 WhatsApp groups and we are reaching to people on booth level via Facebook, WhatsApp and other digital means," he said.

Sidhu said the Punjab Model is not a personal or self-serving model but the model of the people of Punjab.

"It's a tailor-made solution for the issues prevalent in Punjab, which has been created after intensive research conducted on the state and its functioning. This model brings the power back in the hands of the people of Punjab for their own prosperity and growth."

No alliance with farmer unions, other parties, says AAP leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh

THE Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will not enter into alliance with farmer unions or any other political party and will fight the Punjab elections on its own, said the party's Punjab unit chief Bhagwant Mann. "We are not going to have any alliance with farmer unions. We didn't have any official meeting with them in this regard. We have already declared 109 tickets out of the total 117 Assembly seats," he said. When asked about post-poll alliance with other parties, Mann replied in negative.

The lone AAP MP from Punjab also claimed his party would form the government in Punjab on March 10 and after that "no one would have to go on strike as the looting of public exchequer would be stopped". Meanwhile, pitching for a "positive and honest campaign", AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said election is not a means of grabbing power for his party but bringing change in the society.

Political circles in Bihar abuzz as BJP MLA tenders resignation

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE BJP MLA from Narkatiaganj, Rashmi Verma, resigned her legislator post on Sunday citing personal reasons. Verma sent her resignation to Speaker Vijay Kumar Sinha, who hasn't accepted it yet, sources in the Assembly secretariat said.

BJP state president Dr Sanjay Jaiswal, however, claimed the issue has been settled and

the MLA would withdraw her resignation.

Verma's resignation, however, has created ripples in political circles. She had joined the BJP ahead of the Assembly polls in 2020. Her move assumes significance in the wake of the RJD's offer to CM Nitish Kumar to lend support if the BJP snapped its ties with the JD-U on the issues of caste census and special status for Bihar.

People's march to Kohima against AFSPA

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

EVEN as the Centre constituted a committee to study if the contentious Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) could be lifted from Nagaland, the public has come forward to embark on a two-day march to the state capital demanding complete withdrawal of the "draconian" law.

The 'March against AFSPA' will commence on Monday

from commercial hub Dimapur and halt at Piphema on the way for the night. It will resume Tuesday and continue till Kohima, where a memorandum will be submitted to the governor.

"The gun-toting soldiers can't be given a free hand in our land or anywhere. Under the shield of AFSPA, a lot of atrocities has been committed. The massacre of civilians at Oting is a

reminder of how this diabolical act works," Kevitho Kera, a social activist and businessman who will take part in the proposed march, told this newspaper.

The organisers have requested the participants to listen to authorities and not indulge in any violent act as it is a peaceful march. They have also requested the people not to vent their ire on security forces.

Maoists using BMW, Thar jeep to supply arms

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

MAOISTS in Jharkhand have been using luxury vehicles, bought with the money extorted from businessman and contractors. The recent arrest of cadres of the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) from Ranchi has revealed that the Left Wing Extremists in the state are leading a luxurious life and the top Maoists are using highly expensive vehicles even up to worth ₹1.5 crore.

Interestingly, these vehicles are being used by the rebels for collecting levy from the local businessmen and supplying

arms to its cadres.

According to an official communiqué issued by Ranchi police, a tip-off was received by the SSP that some of the people involved in supplying arms and ammunitions had been spotted near Dhurwa. A raid was conducted at a roadside Dhaba near Ring Road in Ranchi on Thursday during which Arya Kumar Singh and Ujjwal Kumar Sahu were arrested along with Amirchand Kumar, who had come to receive the SIM cards for the PLFI cadres.

Three others — Nivesh Kumar, Shubham Kumar and Dhruv Kumar — escaped in a



BMW car and Thar jeep. They reportedly belong to the squad of PLFI chief Dinesh Gope.

Later, on information received from Amirchand, several high quality tents, sleeping bags and Maoist pamphlets along with cash amounting ₹3.25 lakh was recovered. The

car and jeep used by the other three for escaping was also seized by the police.

During their interrogation, the arrested persons told police that they work for Gope. They also told police that luxury vehicles are used to transfer the consignment from one place to another and Dhruv and Shubham belong to the same gang.

"There are possibilities that many more such vehicles and several other luxury items being used by the Maoists for which probe still on. Anything could be said only after the investigations are concluded," said SP (City) Saurabh.

CHILDREN TRAINED TO COMMIT CRIMES IN THIS BIHAR VILLAGE

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

Jurabganj village in Kodha block of Bihar's Katihar district has of late acquired the dubious distinction of being a nerve centre of crimes of all hues not only in Bihar but also in other states. The network of the gang is spread over Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi and Maharashtra. Police officials from those states frequented Kodha police station in search of the member of the gang nicknamed 'Kodha

Gang' of Katihar.

Interestingly, the children are given training by village elders to commit crimes and to bear torture, in case caught.

Initially, the gang members were involved in petty crimes like pick-pocking and theft in shops and houses. Later they graduated to crimes like cash loot, bank robbery, dacoity and theft in jewellery shops.

As per the police, the members of the gang offer 'puja' (prayer) of their 'kul devta' (deity) before leaving for their

'destination'. The leader of the gang is paid cut money by the members in lieu of help in security bail from courts after being caught by police or by public on the site of occurrence.

The members of 'Kichhat' tribe, who migrated from Rajasthan decades ago and settled here, took to crime as their source of livelihood.

The children were trained by seniors how to commit crime and bear the physical torture if caught on the scene of crime.



5.9

magnitude earthquake struck off eastern Papua New Guinea on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow
TDS: Thunderstorm • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	4	-31	SNY	Los Angeles	22	8	LC
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	27	16	SNY
Dhaka	28	18	SNY	Moscow	-4	-9	LS
Dubai	24	15	SNY	New York	-2	-9	LC
Houston	16	5	LC	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	14	9	LC	Toronto	-6	-19	LS
London	10	3	HR	Washington	2	-7	SNY

newindianexpress.com

09

BENGALURU

MONDAY 10.01.2022

164 dead, nearly 6,000 held in Kazakh unrest

Health ministry claims situation has stabilised across country; property damage estimated at 175 million euros

ALMATY

MORE than 150 people have died and almost 6,000 have been arrested in Kazakhstan following violent riots in Central Asia's largest country this week, media reported on Sunday citing the health ministry.

The energy-rich nation of 19 million people has been rocked by a week of upheaval, with a number of foreigners detained over the unrest.

At least 164 people were killed in the riots, including 103 in the largest city Almaty, which saw some of the fiercest clashes between protesters and security forces. The new figures — which have not been independently verified — mark a drastic increase in the death toll. Officials previously said 26 "armed criminals" had been killed and that 16 security officers had died.

In total, 5,800 people have been detained for questioning, the presidency said in a statement on Sunday. The figures included "a substantial number of foreign nationals", it said without elaborating. "The situation has stabilised in all regions of the country," even if security forces were continuing "clean-up" operations, the statement added after President Kassym-Jomart



A gasoline station that was shut down in Almaty in the wake of the violence that erupted following protests over the hike in fuel prices in Kazakhstan (R). Buyers visit a market as the city slowly returns to normal on Sunday | AFP

Tokayev held a crisis meeting.

Fuel price rises sparked the unrest that broke out a week ago in the country's west but quickly spread to large cities, including the economic hub Almaty, where riots erupted and police opened fire using live rounds.

The interior ministry, quoted on Sunday by local media, put property damage at around 175 million euros (\$199 million). More than 100 businesses and banks were attacked and looted and more than 400 vehicles destroyed, the ministry reportedly said. A relative calm appeared to

have returned to Almaty, with police sometimes firing shots into the air to stop people approaching the city's central square. Supermarkets were reopening on Sunday, media reported, amid fears of food shortages. Kazakhstan said on Saturday its former security chief had been arrested for suspected treason. News of the detention of Karim Masimov, a former prime minister and longtime ally of Kazakhstan's ex-leader Nursultan Nazarbayev, came amid speculation of a power struggle in the ex-Soviet nation.

The domestic intelligence agency, the National Security Committee, announced Masimov had been detained on Thursday on suspicion of high treason. The arrest came after protests turned into widespread violence, with government buildings in Almaty stormed and set ablaze. Masimov, 56, was fired at the height of the unrest on Wednesday, when Tokayev also took over from Nazarbayev as head of the powerful security council. Nazarbayev's spokesman Aidos Ukabay on Sunday again denied rumours the ex-president had

RUSSIA TO STAY?

President Tokayev has thanked the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation for sending troops to help deal with the unrest. However, while Tokayev says the deployment will be temporary, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has warned that Kazakhstan may have trouble getting them out. "I think one lesson in recent history is that once Russians are in your house, it's sometimes very difficult to get them to leave," he said.

left the country and said he supported the president. He added that Nazarbayev voluntarily ceded control of the security council.

The full picture of the chaos has often been unclear, with widespread disruptions to communications including days-long internet shutdowns. The airport will remain closed "until the situation is stabilised", authorities said on Sunday.

Pope Francis spoke of his "sorrow" and called for dialogue to achieve peace in his prayer on Sunday. AFP

NIGERIA ATTACKS: TOLL CLIMBS TO 200, THOUSANDS DISPLACED

ABUJA

NIGERIA said on Sunday that gunmen killed at least 200 people and displaced thousands in multiple raids in the northwest over the past week, dealing a heavy blow to officials struggling to restore order.

Herders and farmers in Africa's most populous country have clashed over access to land in northwest and central Nigeria for years, but some groups have evolved into criminal gangs known as "bandits" who kill, loot and kidnap.

The minister of humanitarian affairs Sadiya Umar Farouq called the past week's attacks in Zamfara state "horrific and tragic," giving the first official toll after details began filtering out early Saturday. "Over 200 persons were buried... due to the invasion by bandits," she said in a statement confirmed by her spokeswoman Nneka Ikem Anibeze on Sunday.

"We are also worried about the displaced persons who are fleeing in their hundreds," the minister added, saying that relief material was sent to Zamfara.

She said more than 10,000 people were displaced when "their homes were razed by the bandits while scores are still missing."

On Saturday, four residents had said that gunmen rampaged through Anka and Bukkuyum districts over two days, killing at least 140 people. Babandi Hamidu, a resident of Kurfa Danya village said the militants were shooting "anyone on sight".

Bello Matawale, the governor of Zamfara state that borders Niger, downplayed the violence and said only 58 people were killed. AFP



Moammar Nakhleh, father of 17-year-old prisoner Amal, shows a photo of his son on his phone in the refugee camp near the West Bank city of Ramallah | AFP

Concern for Palestinian teen held by Israel grows

AL-JALAZUN

PALESTINIAN teenager Amal Nakhleh's first name means "hope" in Arabic, but his parents are in despair because he is chronically ill and one of the few minors held without charge by Israel.

"Since his arrest last year I have only seen him twice, including last week when he told me he wanted to go on hunger strike," journalist Moammar Nakhleh said of his 17-year-old son. "This scares me because he is already very weak," from myasthenia, a rare neuromuscular disease, and underwent surgery in 2020 to have a tumour removed from his rib cage, Nakhleh said.

Israeli authorities accuse Amal of throwing stones at soldiers and have held him for a year in administrative detention. The practice allows for suspects to be detained without charge for renewable six-month terms while investigations are ongoing. Amal faces a new hearing on Monday, and his father is worried that his detention could be renewed.

Administrative detention has been criticised by the Palestinians, human rights groups and foreign governments, who charge that Israel abuses it.

Israel defends the practice, saying that "due to the complex and volatile security situation in the West Bank, detention orders are issued against those who plan terrorist attacks, or those who orchestrate, facilitate or otherwise actively assist in the commission of such acts". "The use of administrative detentions, which allow for the deprivation of a person's liberty for a limited time only, is an effective and lawful security measure against such continuous terrorist attacks," Israel argues in a foreign ministry statement.

Leading Israeli newspaper Haaretz joined the fray days ago with an editorial entitled "Enough with administrative detentions". "It's time for Israel to learn to forgo this undemocratic, corrupt practice of unlimited administrative detention, without evidence or charges that can be refuted," Haaretz said. AFP

EXPRESS READ

At least six dead in South African floods

Johannesburg: At least six people, including a diver, have been killed in flash flooding from torrential rains in South Africa's Eastern Cape province, a senior regional official said on Sunday. "A total of six people died in separate incidents including a member of the... police services," Oscar Mabuyane, the Eastern Cape provincial premier said in a statement. AFP

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the late **Naushad Ali Khan S/o. Humza Ali Khan & Smt. Almas Banu W/o. Smt. Shah Jan, 111, Coffee Board Colony, Shampur Main Road, A.C. Post Bangalore - 560 045** has entered into the Sale Agreement Dated: 30/12/2021, with Kumar S. W/o. B.M. Anjanappa, to purchase the schedule property, which belongs to B.M. Anjanappa, S/o. Munisappa & Nagamma, thereafter Gift Deed has been executed in the favour of his wife **Smt. Kumari S.** & if any persons having claim in any manner of right, title, and interest over the schedule property are called upon to lodge such claim/s or objection/s with undersigned in writing with the supporting documents within the period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this publication. If no such objections or claims are received within the said period, we shall proceed to purchase and execute the Sale deed in respect of the schedule property & if any claims received after the said period will not be considered and it will not be binding on us & in spite of it anybody does such transaction will not be binding on us.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of the Immovable Property being vacant site **Bearing Old Katta No.186, Sites Nos. 1, 2 & 3** formed in the Property No.9, Situated at Hanumanthnagar **BILSHIVALE Village**, Bidaralli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, presently comes under the jurisdiction limits of **BBMP Ward No. 54, Bangalore**.
MEASUREMENTS: East to West: 41 Feet, North to South: 97.4 Feet, Totally Measuring: 3993.4 Square Feet
BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS:
East By: Private Property, West By: 20 Feet Road, North By: 20 Feet Road, South By: 20 Feet Road.

Naushad Ali Khan, Advocate & Associates
#11, Coffee Board Colony, Shampur Main Road, Opp Axis Bank ATM A.C. Post, Bangalore - 560 045
Cell: 9867851573 / 98600 88861

Quote Express

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED

MARK TWAIN

Oushadhi Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.

Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
Ph: 0487-2459841, 2459807
E-mail: purchase@oushadhi.org
P/174/2021-22 Date: 10.1.2022
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the supply of I) Raw Materials and II) Containers & Packing Materials for the period **1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022**. Tenders can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur, Thrissur (Sd/-) Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my client **SRI.GIRISH.K** want to Purchase a property and the details of the property are mentioned below as in **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from its Lawful Owners viz., **SRI.RAGHAVENDRA.D.** Son of Late Sri. Anjanayulu, Aged about 45 years, residing at No.9-31-1, upstairs, Varalakshmi Talkies Road, Dharmavaram, Ananthapuram, Andhra Pradesh - 515671. The said owners have informed my client the schedule property is free from all claims and encumbrances etc., Any person or persons, Banks, Financial institutions etc., having any valid right title, interest or any claim over the Schedule Property or any portions of it in any manner may with documentary evidence lodge their objections/claims with 7 days from the date of this Public notice with the undersigned, if no valid objection are received within the stipulated date, my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property and the Schedule property is free from all claims and encumbrances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of Southern Portion of Vacant Site bearing No.213, formed in Converted Site No.34(1), 35(1), 39(1) & 41 duly converted by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Vide conversion Order No.B.D.SI.ALN(S) SRIK.T/136/2003-04, dated 28.04.2004, Bruthath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Khatha No.213/34(1), 35(1), 39(1) & 41, situated at **Myasadana Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk**, with in the jurisdiction of Bruthath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Hemmipigupura Ward No.198, totally measuring 2677.81 Sq. ft out of which on the southern portion of Property measuring East to West 50.0 feet and North to South 30.0 feet, totally measuring 1500 Sq.ft., and bounded on: **EAST BY: Road, WEST BY: Property No.198, NORTH BY: Northern Portion of same Site No.213 & SOUTH BY: Site No.212**

SIDDARAMAIAH.H.S., Advocate, #220, First Floor, 6th Cross, 'A' Street, Anand Rao Extension, Gandhinagar, BANGALORE-560 009

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BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1

No.4, LC Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road at Bangalore
O.A.No. 642/2019

Between **Canara Bank, Sanyajnagar Branch, Bangalore** ...APPLICANT
AND:
DEEPA DILEEP AND OTHERS ...DEFENDANTS

Smt. SUJATHA.B.S., W/o. Satish B.S., Residing at: No.21, 1st Main, Anjaneyawamy Layout, Vidyanagar Post, Bengaluru-560007.
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 22 (VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.
WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for the recovery of a sum of **Rs.56,57,312/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lacs Sixty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twelve only)** together with the agreed rate of interest at the rate of **11.50%** compounded monthly with costs and other reliefs. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of this summons to the foreman in person or by a pleader/ advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **31st day of December, 2021.**
By the order of the Tribunal
Sd/-REGISTRAR, IC DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, BANGALORE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that our client **MR. H. AZRA NAZLEE Urf AZRA NAZLEE ISMAIL SHARIEF**, aged about 43 years, W/o. Mr. Ismail Sharief, residing at # Flat No.24263 Building-2, Tower-4, 26th level, Prestige Falcon City, Koramkunte Cross, Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru-560062, has lost/misplaced the original document i.e. **SALE DEED DATED 02-12-2003**, registered as document No.15201/2002-03 of Book No.1 in Volume 2847 at pages 125 to 131, also in CD No.68 dated 09-01-2003, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, K. R. Puram, Bangalore which is related to my residential property bearing Vacant Site No.135, presently bearing **BBMP Property No.93/71/35**, earlier House List No.360, formed in converted Site No.93/7, converted vide conversion order No. BDA ALN SR. 203/2001-02 dated 10-12-2001, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and Certificate No.ALN.SR.169/2001-02 dated 06-11-2001, issued by the Tahsildar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Situated at Thansidana Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore measuring East to West 43 feet and North to South 30 feet in all measuring 1290 Sq.Ft and bounded on East by: Private Property, West by: 30 feet wide Road, North by: Site No.134, and South by: Site No.136.

Further, Police Complaint is given Bengaluru City Police, Bangalore City Police bearing Lost Article (LA) Report No.0131951/2022 on 09-01-2022 and now the Paper Publication is also taken to this effect. Hence the public are hereby notified that if anyone is/are in possession of the above said original document, the same may be handed over the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Finders of the said document will be suitable rewarded.

Sd/- GLS Law Partners
Advocates & Solicitors
Address: No.5C-338, 2nd Floor, 3rd A Main Road, 5th Cross Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kammanahalli, Bangalore - 560033
Contact: +91-9819826604, +91-7259535937
Email: glslawpartners@gmail.com

ASIA MATTERS

Professor critical of Taliban arrested

Kabul: The Taliban have arrested a university professor and outspoken critic of successive governments, including the new rulers in Kabul, the group's spokesman said on Sunday. Zabihullah Mujahid said in a tweet that professor Faizullah Jalal was being held by the Taliban's intelligence arm. The group accused the professor of 'nonsense remarks on social media, which were provoking people against the government and playing with people's dignity'. In Kabul, a small group of women protested Jalal's detention. They chanted: 'Talking is not a crime, professor Jalal is not a criminal.' AP

Snowstorm death toll goes up to 23

Islamabad: The death toll due to unprecedented snowfall and influx of tourists in Pakistan's popular hill station of Murree reached 23 on Sunday, even as rescuers ramped up efforts to evacuate thousands of trapped picnickers from the scenic snow-bound mountain resort. Thousands of people visited Murree after the picturesque town, located at the foothills of the Himalayas in Rawalpindi, received a record-breaking snowfall, leaving authorities helpless and freeing to death at least 22 people in their stranded vehicles on Saturday. PTI

Lanka govt seeks to reschedule Chinese debt

Colombo: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka sought to reschedule its huge Chinese debt burden in Sunday talks with visiting foreign minister Wang Yi. The island's tourism economy has been hammered by Covid-19 and its depleted foreign exchange reserves have led to food rationing at supermarkets and shortages of essential goods. Key ally China is Sri Lanka's biggest bilateral lender and Wang's visit comes after a warning from international ratings agencies that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's incumbent government could be on the brink of default. AFP

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Address: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013.
Branch Address: No 82/1, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025.

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Demand Notice dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singly or together referred to "Obligors")/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice(s), the amount indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said Obligor(s) respectively.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.) as on below date*	Date of Demand Notice and date of NPA
9686558	Mr. Shashikumar G as Borrower and Mrs. Kaveri R (Co-borrower's)	4. As on 24.12.2021 an amount of Rs. 16,06,634/-	24-Dec-21 and 7-Nov-21

Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties: "SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY" All the piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.3, portion of Khatha No.133, assessment No. 43/6B, Presently BBMP Khatha No.10943/6B/03, situated at Maruthi Nagar, Nagasethyhalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and bounded on: East By: Property of Smt Ratnamma and Sri Babu, West By: Property of Sri. Srinivas, North By: Road, South By: Others Property Measuring East to West 20 Ft and North to South 33 Ft., totally measuring 660 Sq.Ft.,

9227955	Mr. Manjunatha M as Borrower and Mrs. Shilpa Shri D R (Co-borrower's)	As on 28-12-2021 an amount of Rs. 352876/- is due and payable by you under Agreement No. 9227955- is due and payable by you under Agreement No. 9164095 totaling to Rs. 2135646/-	28-Dec-21 and 7-Nov-21
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Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties: "SCHEDULE PROPERTY" All the piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of the Site No.36, Khatha No.331, Property No.14/1, Situated at D K Venkataswamy Layout, Devasandra Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the Jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 15 Feet and North to South 40 Feet in total measuring 600 Square Feet bounded as follows: East By: Site No. 35, West By: Remaining Portion of the same Site No.36, North By: 20 feet Road, South By: Site No.29.

9528328 & 9294285	Maniarasan K as Borrower and Mrs. K Rajeshwari (Co-borrower's)	5. As on 28-12-2021 an amount of Rs.425156/- is due and payable by you under Agreement No. 9528328 and an amount of Rs. 1221097/- is due and payable by you under Agreement No. 9294285 totaling to Rs. 1646253/-	28-Dec-21 and 7-Nov-21
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Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties: "SCHEDULE PROPERTY" Yinnuzuvadi Village of Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, attached to the Registration District of Hosur, the piece and parcel of house lands in the extent of 1326 Sq. Ft. of Vacant House Plot bounded By: East By: 15 Feet Road, West By: 20 Feet Road, North By: Mr. Madeshwaran House, South By: Mr. T. Selvakumar House Plot, IN THE MIDEST AN EXTENT MEASURING: East to West on the Northern Side: 52 Feet East to West on the Southern Side: 52 Feet North to South on the Eastern Side: 25 Feet North to South on the Western Side: 25 Feet The total 1326 Sq. Ft. of House plot, the property comes under the Village Panchayat Limits of Yinnuzuvadi and Union Council of Hosur."

TCHFH049 30001000 66299 & 10258754	Bollina Sathya Prasad as Borrower and Mrs. Bollina Suguna (Co-borrower's)	As on 27-12-2021 an amount of Rs. 564067/- is due and payable by you under Agreement No. 10258754 and an amount of Rs. 791607/- is due and payable by you under Agreement No. 100066299 totaling to Rs. 6432074/-	27-Dec-21 and 7-Nov-21
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Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties: "Schedule - A" (Description of Entire Property) All the piece and parcel of the residential Converted Lands now known as and bearing Bytarayanapura City Municipal Council Khatha No.58/40/1, 42/2 (Old Site No.17), carved out of Survey Nos. 40/1 and 42/2 of Bytarayanapura Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and measuring in all 8967 Square feet and bounded on: East By: 25 Feet Road, West By: Property bearing Survey No.42/1 and Private Property, North By: Property Bearing Site No.16, South By: Property Bearing Site No.18, Schedule - "B" (Description of Undivided Share hereby Conveyed) An undivided 5.49% (Five and Four Nine Percent) Share equivalent to 492 Sq. Ft., in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property, Schedule - "C" (Description of Apartment) A Two Bedroom Apartment bearing No. G-01, in the Ground Floor in the Apartment Building known as "KESAR RESIDENCY" constructed in the Schedule 'A' Property with super built up area of 1057 Square Feet (which is inclusive of Proportionate share of common area) along with one basement Covered Car Parking area bearing No. G01 and the Garden area of approximate 1386 Square Feet."

9752611	Prashant M Sunadhali as Borrower and Mrs. Shilpa Prashant Sunadhali, (Co-borrower's)	As on 30-12-2021 an amount of Rs.25,23,513/-	30-Dec-21 and 8-Jul-18
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Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties/ Mortgaged Properties: "Schedule - Property" All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Flat No-A-1518A, measuring super built up area 435 Square Feet, 15th Floor, Tower "OAK" Paramount Golf Forest, Plot No-BGH-A Site -C Housing EXTN, OPP Sector Zela, Surajpur, Greater Noida - 201301."

"with further interest, additional interest at the rate as more particularly stated in respective Demand Notices dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL, as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/ Immovable Property (ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules/entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-, Authorised Officer
For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited
Date: 10.01.2022
Place: Bangalore
Contact No. (022) 66069383

New entrants to drive future of MF industry

The industry is seeing several new entrants, which are adopting a technology-driven approach to disrupt the space

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

WITH more investors, innovation, evolving regulations and new entrants coming into the mutual fund space in India, the industry is changing and witnessing growth in terms of penetration and investors. The industry is seeing new entrants, which are adopting a technology-driven approach to disrupt the industry. Of course, consolidation is also happening with old fund houses giving way to new players.

Recently, HSBC acquired L&T's MF business and this strategic deal is said to help HSBC get access to smaller cities. Also, apart from top players, Asset Management Companies (AMCs) including Quant Money Managers, PPFAS Asset Management and PGIM India Asset Management are registering strong growth in assets, indicating that the industry is growing and welcoming new players who drive the ecosystem with technological advancements.

The Assets Under Management (AUM) of the industry as on November 30, 2021 stood at ₹37.34 lakh crore.

"The mutual fund space is definitely changing for the better. This is better for all stakeholders with investors at the top of the beneficiary pyramid. Evolving regulations, increasing industry participants, high quality expansion of product suites and the rise of digital distribution channels are key factors to this change. These factors will culminate into a robust mutual fund investing ecosystem with more investors

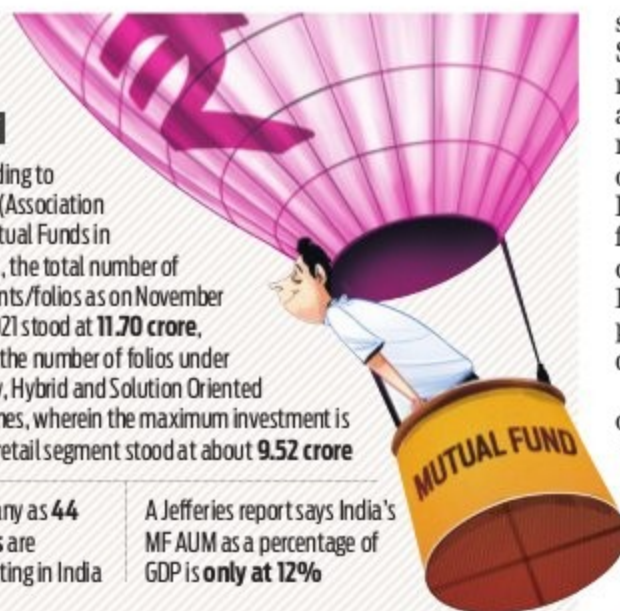
SOME FACTS ABOUT THE MF INDUSTRY

The MF Industry's AUM has grown from ₹16.50 lakh crore as on November 30, 2016 to ₹37.34 lakh crore as on November 30, 2021, more than 2-fold increase in a span of 5 years

According to AMFI (Association of Mutual Funds in India), the total number of accounts/folios as on November 30, 2021 stood at 11.70 crore, while the number of folios under Equity, Hybrid and Solution Oriented Schemes, wherein the maximum investment is from retail segment stood at about 9.52 crore

As many as 44 AMCs are operating in India

A Jefferies report says India's MF AUM as a percentage of GDP is only at 12%



sition, Dev Ashish, Founder of Stable Investor says, "Unlike many other foreign asset managers who exited the domestic mutual fund business because of low margins and other challenges, HSBC is among the very few who have managed to increase their presence here. HSBC had been a small fringe player since it entered the Indian markets."

Currently at 23rd position, once HSBC absorbs L&T's Mutual Fund business, it will catapult itself into the bigger league and it will get access to smaller cities as L&T had deeper penetration in non-metros (and those beyond top-30) as well.

Regulatory changes

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the mutual fund regulator, has also been very pro-active with regulatory changes to ensure the loopholes are plugged and the industry stays ahead in terms of changes in the investment and technology landscape.

In April 2020, Franklin Templeton MF's decision to wind up six schemes had made unitholders approach the court. After this, market regulator SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) recently made it mandatory for MF trustees to take consent of unitholders before winding up a scheme.

"SEBI has become stringent and has laid down a plethora of rules in an attempt to make MF houses more compliant and accountable for their actions. The MF industry went through an overhaul in 2021, in order to step up the transparency for

customer security. SEBI mandated for regular and detailed disclosure of information related to the scheme's transactions," says Chawla. Another important rule directed by SEBI was for the mutual fund houses to delineate the level of risk attached to their schemes and that could range from "low" to "very high".

"This particular rule also called the risk-o-meter was chiefly brought in to appraise the investors of the future risk they are taking. With the objective of uniform fund allocation, SEBI has commanded at least 25% allocation in each segment ranging from large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap companies," he adds.

Major players such as Aditya Birla Sun Life, Kotak, SBI, ICICI, Axis, HDFC, and UTI, among others, account for over 80% of market share in the industry. But with new players coming in, the future of MF will be competitive and these players, including foreign AMCs, will compete to gain greater market share.

Recently, the Sebi paved the way for the launch of silver ETFs in the country, and a number of fund houses have either already launched silver ETFs or lined up their silver ETFs for launch.

With Mutual fund assets under management touching ₹40 lakh crore, and more and more retail investors - retail folios now just shy of 100 million - realising the merits of investing in mutual funds, this industry is all set for more tech innovations, new players and consolidations.

NEW YEAR 2022: RESOLVE TO KEEP IT SIMPLE

THE last few days of the old calendar year inevitably lead up to rather noble New Year Resolutions.

Most general resolutions including dieting, weight loss plans and regular exercising, which of course, cannot be and are not usually kept. This is simply because the mere change of a date on the calendar does not change the will and temperament of a person.

It is pretty much the same on the investment front. I am amused when asked what my New Year investment resolutions are. Well, mine is a singular all-year round resolution and unchanged for many, many years. If I had to spell it out, it would read - 'Keep it Simple'.

For starters, in Equities I place my faith and it has been so over several years. I simply zero in on good investments, accumulate them over time and let these investments compound.

Being arithmetically inclined ever since I was a school-boy has helped, as it drove home the magic of the power of compounding pretty early in my life.

Very few legal investment options can beat the returns generated by an investment in a good equity stock or a consistently performing equity mutual fund.

My belief, based on the anecdotal evidence that I have been privy to first hand, is that those who are restless and keep shuffling their holdings, more often than not end up losing the winners in their pack and are left with the more modest and under-performers.

Instead of doing that, if one holds on to one's carefully curated equity investments, the chances of gain-

ing handsomely over longer time frames tend to improve substantially. The key though, lies in taking the body blows when the market is correcting, without flinching.

Even if one were a passive equity investor, and by that I mean an investor in Index based Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) or passive Index Equity Mutual Funds offered by Asset Management Companies, chances are, one would still have made a fair amount of money.

Hard data analysis shows that in the 21 years of this century, the BSE Sensex has closed with negative returns for the calendar year only 4 times. This means that 17 out of 21 times, the BSE Sensex has ended in the blue.

For the record, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Sensex clocked negative returns in the calendar years, 2001, 2008, 2011 and 2015.

Furthermore, barring just four years in which the returns were in single digits, in the remaining 13 years the returns were in double digits and in most of these years, they were 25% plus.

While this does not necessarily suggest that the same performance can be replicated over the next two decades or so, I would like to think that the Indian Equity Markets will continue to thrive in this decade notwithstanding the inevitable hiccups that might lead to the odd negative returns year or two.

I, for one, would use such a year to further top up my equity investments. As I have mentioned at the outset - I do not over simulate or diversify across asset classes sans very good reason.

In Equities, I place my faith.



FINANCIAL
ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India.
He can be reached at
ceolotus@hotmail.com

BUDGET 2022: WHAT TO LOOK FOR

RAJAS KELKAR

IN the thick of the winter, hectic preparations are underway for Union Budget 2022-23. The North Block, where the finance ministry officials work overnight, will be secured over the next few weeks. Nothing can move in and out of the building before the Budget is presented. Many industry representations have already been made to the finance minister and the team. It is a Budget where everyone is looking for something.

For savers

If you are a saver, interest rates matter to you the most. They go up when the inflation in the economy creeps up. At the moment, it is creeping up. If you regularly put your money into fixed-income securities or fixed deposits of banks or government-sponsored schemes, you need to learn about the Budget's impact on inflation. The government would encourage more supply of goods that are stoking inflation. The Budget may cut import tariffs on specific items witnessing high demand and low supply. The other way the Budget would work on inflation is by managing government finances. If the government spends more and borrows more, that could stoke inflation in the economy, and rates could go up for savers. However, interest rates could stay put if the government ex-

ercises restraint and generates more tax and non-tax revenue. You need to balance your savings across asset classes to improve their returns. There is a good chance that the government would encourage long-term savings in the Budget.

For borrowers

If you are a borrower and have a floating rate applicable on loans, you are vulnerable to interest rates changing after the Union Budget. You may want to watch out for government incentives for home loan borrowers. The government would like to encourage more home buying to help revive the real estate sector.

Besides that, the government would want small businesses to borrow more and expand. They would need some solid incentives besides loan concessions to consider hiring more workers. You may want to keep an eye on Budget announcements related to interest subventions and concessions on the different types of loans that encourage spending at the level of

businesses and households.

For investors

The government has already cut taxes in the previous budgets for corporates and individuals. The government's effort appears to be to boost economic growth through investment rather than spending. It is more likely a pro-investment budget where the government would want to encourage businesses to trigger a cycle of economic activity. That is good news for the corporate sector that has already shown a strong upcycle in profits. Most pundits expect all significant sectors to perform over 12-18 months.

Stock markets and interest rates usually have an inverse relationship. Government finances are crucial in that context. If the government shows better control over the fiscal policy with a lower deficit, interest rates will stay low. That is good news for share prices.

However, if the government lives beyond

the means where expenditure is higher than the income, it is bad news for interest rates. That is because the government borrows more from the market, resulting in higher interest rates for other borrowers. Businesses need money at low-interest rates. For markets to continue to do better, companies need to keep costs low and generate a higher revenue over the next two years. According to most predictions, India is expected to grow the fastest among major economies over the next two years.

While the government will spend money on building the country's infrastructure, there is no indication of leaving more money in your hands to boost consumption. In the past, the Union Budget was the most-watched event to figure out things that could get cheaper or expensive. The government would make changes in indirect taxes like excise duty. Since all indirect taxes are merged into GST, the Budget no longer offers that excitement.

You may not want to expect any significant tax concessions from a personal taxation standpoint.

There is a demand to rationalise the dividend and capital gains tax.

However, the government has made it clear that there is no reason to offer tax concessions to any category of investors.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

EXPRESS READ

Interest calculator soon in GSTR-3B

New Delhi: GST Network will shortly release interest calculator in monthly tax payment form GSTR-3B to help taxpayers in calculating interest for delayed tax payment. This new functionality will compute the minimum interest applicable on the basis of values declared in GSTR-3B for a tax period, GSTN said in an advisory.

Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts cross ₹1.5 L cr

DEPOSITS in bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme, launched about seven and half years ago by the government, have crossed the Rs 1.5 lakh crore mark.

As per the latest finance ministry data, the total balance in over 44.23 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts was at Rs 1,50,939.36 crore at December end, 2021.

PMJDY, the National Mission for Financial Inclusion, had completed seven years of implementation in August last year. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on August 15, 2014.

As per the finance ministry data, of the total 44.23 crore accounts, 34.9 crore were with the public sector

banks, 8.05 crore with regional rural banks, and the rest 1.28 crore with private sector banks. Also, 31.28 crore PMJDY beneficiaries were issued RuPay debit cards. It may be noted that the number of RuPay cards and their usage has increased over time.

As per the data, 29.54 crore Jan Dhan accounts were held in rural and semi-urban bank branches. Nearly 24.61 crore account holders were women as of December 29, 2021.

During the first year of the scheme 17.90 crore PMJDY accounts were opened.

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guideline, there is no requirement of maintaining minimum balance in Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, including Jan Dhan accounts. PTI

JAN 10 - JAN 16

DPIIT to hold Innovation Week for start-ups

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

THE Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organising the first-ever Start-up India Innovation Week from 10th-16th of January 2022.

The virtual week-long innovation celebration aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India. This event's main goal is to bring together the country's key start-ups, entrepreneurs, investors, incubators, funding entities, banks, policymakers, and other national/international stakeholders to celebrate entrepreneurship and promote innovation.

Furthermore, to exchange knowledge on nurturing start-up ecosystems; to develop entrepreneurial ecosystem capacities; to mobilise global and domestic capital for start-up investments; to encourage and inspire the youth for innovation and entrepreneurship; to provide market access opportunities to start-ups; and to showcase high-quality, high-technology, and frugal innovations from India.

With participation of States/UTs and various departments of Government of India, the week-long programme will address key aspects of the start-up ecosystem through interactive sessions, workshops, and presentations based on themes such as Academia & Mentorship Support to Start-ups, etc.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price

₹2,571

Target Price

₹2,830

Eyewear segment will see store addition of 250-300 outlets over next 15 months; can sustain a margin of 18-20%, although the margin of 23% for the quarter was exceptionally high. TITAN has a strong growth runway, with market share of < 10%. Its medium to long-term earnings growth opportunity is the best-of-breed. (EPS CAGR of ~24% over past 3 years before Covid). We expect EPS CAGR of 24% over FY20-FY24.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of TITAN

How to read Put-call ratio & its implications on stock movement

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

TATA Consultancy Services' active month options expiring on January 27 had a put call ratio (PCR) of 0.6 on the Friday closing, before the company announced it would consider a buyback at its board meeting on January 12.

This ratio could increase by end of trade on Monday as the buyback news could cause the stock to rally, depending on Street expectations of the buyback price, its size and the acceptance ratio.

A rise would indicate a bullish set up and a further lessening of the ratio would imply a

bearish response of the Street.

Options are derivative instruments as they derive their value from an underlying security, in this case the TCS share.

An options contract gives a buyer the right to buy (call option) or sell (put option) an underlying security at a fixed price on a future date in exchange for a premium she pays to the seller.

The seller is obliged to either sell to or buy the security from the buyer. In reality, the contracts are cash settled. The maximum loss for the buyer is the premium paid to the seller

The options contract

Options contract gives buyer the right to buy (call option) or sell (put option) an underlying security at a fixed price in exchange for a premium she pays to seller. But contracts are cash settled.

while the gain can be unlimited. The seller's maximum gain is the premium earned from the options' buyer.

The seller, assuming unlim-

ited risk, is considered financially savvy than the options buyer and 8 out of 10 times retains the premium paid by the latter.

The open or outstanding positions of all the calls and the puts each totalled together give the total call and put open interest. To determine the PCR, the sum of the puts outstanding is divided by the sum of the calls outstanding.

A higher ratio normally indicates a bullish stance as the option sellers are confident that an underlying security won't fall and the put sellers

would get to retain the premium paid by the put buyers. A lower ratio likewise indicates a bearish stance as the call sellers are confident that an underlying security wouldn't rise, enabling them to pocket the premium paid by the call buyers.

These are dependent on what strikes or levels the option sellers have sold the options, whether puts or calls and will be dealt with in a later edition.

An unforeseen event, like the TCS corporate action, could alter the PCR and give hints of what the Street thinks of it.





Teaming up for the first-time on the ATP Tour, India's **Rohan Bopanna** and Ramkumar Ramanathan won the Adelaide International doubles trophy with a hard-fought 7-6 (6), 6-1 win over top seeds Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo here on Sunday. Bopanna's excellent service returns at crucial times and Ramkumar's all-round game tilted the match in their favour.

newindianexpress.com

BENGALURU MONDAY 10.01.2022

Will he stay or go? D-day for Djokovic

After four nights in detention hotel, World No 1's visa cancellation appeal to be heard in court on Monday

AP @ Melbourne

AFTER four nights in an Australian immigration detention hotel, Novak Djokovic will get his day in court Monday in a deportation case that has polarized opinions and elicited heartfelt support for the top-ranked tennis star in his native Serbia. Djokovic had his visa cancelled after arriving at Melbourne airport last week when Australian border officials ruled that he didn't meet the criteria for an exemption to an entry requirement that all non-citizens be fully vaccinated for Covid-19. His lawyers have since filed court papers in his challenge against deportation from Australia that show Djokovic tested positive for Covid-19 last

month and recovered. He used that as grounds in applying for a medical exemption to Australia's strict vaccination rules. The case is scheduled for a virtual hearing to appeal the visa cancellation. It will take place at 10 am local time in Melbourne (2300 GMT Sunday) in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. On Sunday, Australian media reported that a federal government bid for extra time to prepare its case against Djokovic was denied. The application, made on behalf of Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews during the weekend, sought to adjourn the final hearing by two days 'just five days from the start of the Australian Open. Federal Circuit Court Judge



Anthony Kelly refused the application and the case will resume on Monday as planned. In Serbia on Saturday, Djokovic's family held a rally in support of him in Belgrade for the

third successive day, and Prime Minister Ana Brnabic assured him of her government's support over his visa battle to ensure he can enter Australia and defend his Australian Open title. The tournament begins January 17 just a week from his court date. "We've managed to make sure gluten-free food is delivered to him, as well as exercising tools, a laptop and a SIM card so that he is able to be in contact with his family," Brnabic said. It comes as Australian media reported that immigration officials denied a request to have Djokovic's personal chef cook meals for him in the immigration hotel. Djokovic is nine-time Australian Open champion. He has 20 Grand Slam singles title,

a men's record he shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. The case has become a complex one. Djokovic was given a medical exemption backed by the Victoria state government and Australian Open organisers on January 1, based on information he supplied to two independent medical panels. He was approved for a visa electronically. But it has since emerged that the Victoria state medical exemption, allowed for people who tested positive for the coronavirus within the last six months, was deemed invalid by the federal border authorities. It would have been valid to enter the tournament, but it wasn't enough to satisfy the Australian Border Force.



Loh Kean Yew during a training session in New Delhi on Sunday | BAI

India Open set to begin amid Omicron scare

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE first official press conference ahead of India Open, which was supposed to be held on Sunday afternoon, was called off at the last minute due to delay of flights. That is the world we live in with the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic gathering steam and threatening to disrupt normal life. Just a couple of days ago the United Kingdom team pulled out after two players tested positive before leaving for India. Late on Sunday, B Sai Praneeth and Dhruv Rawat were forced to withdraw after their Covid test results returned positive. The duo had reportedly undertaken PTPCR tests in order to travel to Delhi. In these unpredictable times, one thing is certain for now. The BWF Super 500 tournament is set to go ahead with some marquee Indian players like Kidambi Srikanth and PV Sindhu among top contenders.

Srikanth has been handed the top billing in men's singles of the tournament, beginning January 11. This event also marks the start of 2022 HSBC BWF World Tour season and the former World No 1, after a commendable showing during the World Championships last year, is determined to make the home advantage count. "It's a long season for all us with the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games scheduled later this year. Starting the season on home turf gives me a perfect opportunity to start the year on a winning note," Srikanth, who will begin his campaign against compatriot Siril Verma, said.

Fresh after his World Championships success, Loh Kean Yew is another big name who'll be eyeing the top prize in the \$400,000 event, which is returning after a gap of more than two years. Many shuttlers, local and foreign, have started arriving at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, the place where they'll be looking to bring their A-game in the next few days.

Loh is one of the players who has reached the venue and was in action during the training session on Sunday, trying to get the feel of the conditions. Lakshya Sen, who clinched a bronze medal during the World Championships last year, will be also be intent on going all the way and stopping Loh and Srikanth.

Bearing in mind the Covid situation, the organisers have put in place safety protocols to ensure that the focus remains on the field of play. According to the organisers, all the participants will be tested everyday at the hotel where they are residing and only after attaining the negative report, they'll be granted permission to enter the venue. Fans and media also won't be permitted this time. "We have taken all possible precautions for the safety of the players and officials and we will try to engage fans through various online platform and live broadcast on television," Ajay Singhania, BAI general secretary, said.

The fact that the fans won't be able to witness the action from close quarters is a bit of a dampener for someone like Sindhu, who's the No 1 seed in women's singles. "I have always looked forward to playing in New Delhi as India Open has always had full house crowd with great atmosphere as winning a tournament at home is always special for any player," the 2017 edition winner said. Apart from Sindhu, Saina Nehwal will return to action after suffering an injury recently, an injury that had forced her to sit out of the World Championships.

Afraid of water once, Ajay thrives in rowing

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

WHEN he joined the Indian Army in December 2018, Ajay Tyagi didn't even know that a sport named rowing existed. Given his tall frame, he stands at 6 feet 2 inches, Ajay was selected for rowing six months after joining the army. Strangely, he didn't even know how to swim then. In the next few months, he not only learnt swimming but also picked up the basics of rowing.

In less than three years, Ajay proved his mettle with boat and oars as he finished on the top of the podium on his nationals debut. The 21-year-old, along with his partner Arwinder Singh, clinched lightweight men's double sculls gold at the 39th Senior National Rowing and 23rd Open Sprints Championships in the Army Rowing Node (ARN), which concluded in Pune on Saturday.

"As I didn't know how to swim, I was afraid of water. Initially, the boat used to flip a lot as I couldn't balance it. It was not easy but with time I acquired the skills needed to swim and row," Ajay, who hails from Sara village of Modinagar tehsil (Uttar Pradesh), said. Ajay was into long-distance



running before being recruited by the Indian Army. He now wishes to represent the country in international events. "The nationals success has boosted my confidence. Arvind (Singh) sir, who represented the country in the Tokyo Olympics and coaches are helping me in ironing out my flaws. I will now head to my village before resuming the training at ARN after a fortnight," he added.

Ajay and Arwinder clocked 7:0.4 seconds to finish first.

Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh claimed the silver with the timing of 7:09.5 seconds while Jaspreet Singh and Bhagwan Singh clocked 7:23.4 seconds to pocket bronze.

Ajay started training at the ARN last year. The one-year stint fetched him nationals gold. He hopes training at the centre ahead of the big events like Asiad will help him prepare better. "ARN is equipped with all facilities. Chief coach Ismail Baig and coach Bajrang Lal Takhar work tirelessly with rowers there. I am confident I can improve a lot in the next few months under their guidance and convince selectors to find a place in the national team for the 2022 Asian Games," signed off Ajay.



India players during a practice session ahead of the third and final Test against South Africa at Newlands (Cape Town), on Sunday | BCCI

DO-OR-DIE

Kohli returns as India look to hit back

CAPE TOWN: India will be looking to Virat Kohli to provide inspiration as they seek to bounce back in the decisive third Test against South Africa starting at Newlands on Tuesday. Kohli is expected to return as captain and key batsman after missing India's defeat in the second Test in Johannesburg because of a back spasm. Kohli's fierce competitiveness was missing in the closing stages at the Wanderers.



Bengaluru FC face Mumbai challenge

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU FC might not have enjoyed a great season so far, but their last four games in the Indian Super League have given them hope of a better show in the upcoming matches. It is almost a month since the Blues have tasted defeat, but they still lie ninth with the team not having played to their full potential yet. And it is not going to be easy when they face one of the title favourites Mumbai City FC at P.J.N Stadium in Fatorada on Monday.

With Marco Pezzaiuoli's side still in the bottom half of the table, a good outing and more importantly, three points against Mumbai will give them further confidence to climb up the ladder. For that to happen,

they need to bring their A-game against Des Buckingham's side. The defenders have to be on top of their game with Mumbai possessing some brilliant attackers including Igor Angulo, who has scored eight goals so far. The Islanders will, however, miss the services of their star midfielder Ahmed Jahouh, who is suspended.

More importantly, Bengaluru need to be clinical in front of goal when the chances come by. They also need to find goals from open play. Of their last 10 goals, only one has come from open play, which is disappointing for Blues, especially when they boast attackers like Cleiton Silva, Prince Ibara, Udanta Singh and Sunil Chhetri. The latter has been primarily used as a substitute in the last few



Alvaro Vazquez found the back of the net as Kerala Blasters beat Hyderabad FC 1-0 to go top on Sunday | ISL

games. If Bengaluru will be desperate for a win, the Islanders will be in a similar mood after their recent results in the league. They have lost two and drawn two in their last four games. Pezzaiuoli is not reading too much on their form and expects a tough match against Mumbai.

"It doesn't matter if we play Mumbai today, two weeks from now, or a month from now. While it's true that recent results haven't gone their way, they've been playing good football and it will be a tough game that will need us to be at our best. Our aim is to focus on ourselves and the way we play," said Pezzaiuoli, whose side lost 1-3 early December against Mumbai. They will also be aiming for revenge on Monday.

England hang on to salvage draw in 4th Ashes Test

AFF @ Sydney

ENGLAND dug deep for a gripping draw with just one wicket left to deny dominant Australia a 4-0 series lead in the fourth Ashes Test in Sydney on Sunday.

No 11 batsman James Anderson doggedly played out a tense 102nd and final over from leg-spinner Steve Smith in deteriorating evening light as England ended on 270 for nine chasing a 388-run target in a heart-pumping finish.

It all came down to the last six balls at the Sydney Cricket Ground with eight fielders crowding around the bat as Anderson fended off Smith's part-time leg-spin.

Australia had looked set to win the day-long battle and pull off a thrilling victory when they claimed the ninth wicket of Jack Leach, caught in the slips by David Warner off Smith for 26 to mass team celebrations.

But Anderson and long-time pace partner Stuart Broad played out the remaining two nail-bitingly tense overs to give the beleaguered tourists a morale-boosting fighting draw after losing the Ashes series 3-0 inside 12 days.

Ben Stokes with a gutsy 60 and first-innings centurion Jonny Bairstow's 41 held up the Australian victory charge.

Brief scores: Australia 416/8decl & 265/6decl drew with England 294 & 270/9 (Crawley 77, Stokes 60; Boland 3/30, Cummins 2/80, Lyon 2/28).

EXPRESS READ

Barty bags Adelaide International crown

MELBOURNE: Ash Barty has won her second Adelaide International title in three years with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Elena Rybakina. Barty is scheduled to play the Sydney Tennis Classic next week before the Australian Open begins on Jan. 17. In a WTA tournament at Melbourne, American Amanda Anisimova beat Aliaksandra Sasnovich of Belarus 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 to win her second WTA title.

Latham's 186 leads NZ vs Bangladesh

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand captain Tom Latham hit an unbeaten century on the first day of the second Test against Bangladesh on Sunday. By stumps he was 186 not out and with the help of Devon Conway (unbeaten 99), New Zealand was 349-1.

Brief scores: New Zealand 1st innings 349/1 in 90 ovs (Latham (batting) 186, Conway (batting) 99) vs Bangladesh.

Nadal's Open preparations on track

MELBOURNE: Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal's Australian Open preparations remain on track after he beat American Maxime Cressy 7-6 (6), 6-3 in the final of the Melbourne Summer Set on Sunday. Nadal decided to play the lower level tournament to get some match practice after missing much of 2021 with injury and Covid-19. He has not been totally fluent this week and was pushed hard by the American qualifier, but Nadal had too much experience for the 24-year-old serve-volleyer. It was Nadal's 89th title on the ATP tour.

READY TO DELIVER

Confidence, street-smartness behind Renuka's success

GOMESH S @ Chennai

LAST Thursday was just another morning for Renuka Singh Thakur as she went about her routines, training in Una. Except that it wasn't. When her phone started buzzing around 10 am, the day turned on its head. Wishes started pouring in from all over Himachal Pradesh after the pacer was included in the 15-member squad the BCCI had picked for the upcoming tour of New Zealand and the Women's ODI World Cup to follow.

Hailing from a small village Parsa, in Rohru, over 325kms from Dharamshala, Renuka lost her father — Kehar Singh, an ardent cricket fan who named his

eldest son after Vinod Kambli — at the age of three. It was her uncle, Bhupinder Singh Thakur, who saw her play in the neighbourhood with the boys and urged the family to send Renuka to the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association's women's residential academy at Dharamshala. "If he hadn't seen me play then, I probably wouldn't be here," the 25-year-old says.

Despite joining the academy at 15, Renuka needed two years to make her senior debut for Himachal. "I took a couple of years to learn the game better," she says. But, since then, the pacer has made rapid strides in the domestic circuit. Her 21-wicket season in 2018-19 led to

the Challenger Trophy selection that year, followed by an India A call-up to the tour of Australia.

But the big turnaround happened in 2021. Renuka got a job with Northern Railways and was selected to play for the Railways in the Senior One Day Tournament. In August, she earned her maiden T20I call-up and made her India debut in the shortest format in Australia. Renuka followed it up with some impressive performances in the Senior One Day Trophy — nine wickets in five matches — and the Senior Challengers, winning both the titles with Railways and India A, respectively.

Lauding her growth, Nooshin Al Khadeer, former India crick-



Renuka is part of 15-member squad for NZ tour & Women's ODI World Cup

eter and coach of Railways and India A in the 2021 Challengers, says, "When I first saw her in 2018, she looked a little inconsistent. But you can't write off players like that. She was someone who needed to be backed."

"She's different from others. Her aggression is her calmness. She understands things, doesn't get rattled when hit for a boundary, because she knows she can make a comeback."

Renuka's biggest strength is her confidence and street smartness. While that is not to talk less of her skills, Nooshin feels that the pacer's confidence adds immense value to her skills. "She doesn't go into a shell after

a bad game, she is raring to go for the next one," tells Nooshin.

When asked what kind of a role she might play in the World Cup, the Railways coach said that Renuka could be the surprise package as not many know about her in the international circuit. But Renuka hasn't thought about any of it yet. It's just been a couple of days, and the news is still sinking in as she is enjoying the moment with her mother, Sunita Thakur. "The special thing for me is my mom's smile. As a single mother, she has sacrificed so much for me, and I want to do something for India that makes her smile and be proud of me," she signed off.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXFILE • CONSERVATION

Water penalty in California

Now, Californians could end up paying hefty fines for washing their cars or watering their lawns. This is because, for the second time in a decade, there will be mandatory restrictions governing outdoor water use for the people of California as the US province endures another drought amid voluntary conservation efforts falling short

NEW RESTRICTIONS

The rules adopted last week could take effect as soon as the end of January. The restrictions include: Washing cars with hoses lacking shut-off nozzles; outdoor watering that results in excessive runoff into the street and sidewalks; using water for landscaping and irrigation during the 48 hours after storms that bring at least 0.25 inches of rain; using potable water to wash driveways, sidewalks, buildings and patios and for street cleaning or to fill decorative fountains or lakes



\$500 daily fine

All violators have to be wary of the \$500 fine that has been announced. But regulators expect such fines will be rare, as they were in the last drought



Anthony Burdock and Sean de Guzman (R), chief of snow surveys for the California Department of Water Resources, check the depth of snow pack during the first snow survey of season at Phillips Station Thursday.

DROUGHT SHAMING

The state has no plans to put "water cops" on the streets. However, like the previous year, there are chances of "drought shaming", the process of publicly outing people who are wasting water by posting videos to social media

MISSED TARGETS

The action comes as Californians have failed to meet Governor Gavin Newsom's call for a voluntary 15 per cent reduction in water use compared to last year. Between July and November, the state's water usage went down just 6 per cent

WEBSITE FOR REPORTING

The state also has a website where individuals can report their neighbors or others they see violating the rules. The complaints will be directed to the relevant local water agency

80 PER CENT

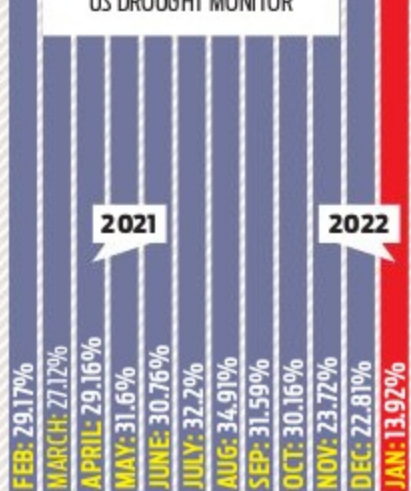
of the state was in extreme or exceptional drought conditions in mid-December. However, now only about 17 per cent of the state is experiencing those conditions. Despite the rain, significant parts of the state's water system are still under stress from the extremely dry conditions earlier in 2021 that dropped many of California's largest reservoirs to record and near-record lows

FACTOIDS

Northern California was wetter than Southern California in November and conserved significantly more water. Regions north of the San Joaquin River, including Sacramento and San Francisco, used between 17 per cent and 26 per cent less water than November 2020, while Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties that account for 55 per cent of the state's population used nearly 1 per cent more

PER CENT OF LAND AFFECTED BY SEVERE OR EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT IN THE US

SOURCE: US DROUGHT MONITOR



Swedish lab eyes poisoned chalice in malaria battle

RESEARCH

STOLKHOM: Cages meshed over with women's tights and crawling with mosquitoes are stashed in a Swedish laboratory. Every day, researchers feed them beetroot juice laced with deadly toxins, part of a grand plan designed to fight malaria.

With hopes of field trials delayed repeatedly by the Covid-19 pandemic, researchers in Sweden still believe they have found the secret to a new environmentally friendly way of killing off the Anopheles species of mosquitoes that transmit malaria.

So hopeful are they, they have founded a company with a view to turning their discovery into a commercially viable alternative to the pesticides currently used to kill mosquitoes, but which can also harm humans and the environment.

Researcher Noushin Emami, 44, jokes that it's like having a pet, but that unlike a pet these mosquitoes are tricked into drinking a poisoned chalice. They are tricked because the liquid is spiked with the very molecule that makes humans infected with malaria so appetising to them.

"If we add this molecule to any other solution, we make that solution very tasty for mosquitoes," says Emami, a molecular infection biologist at Stockholm University. "Like the taste of a fresh baguette or a pizza for a hungry creature... just out of the oven," she said.

In December, the WHO reported 241 million cases of malaria in 2020, up from 219 million in 2019, with an estimated 627,000 deaths — 96 per cent of which were in Africa. Children under five accounted for about 80 per cent of those deaths. In 2017, Emami and her fellow researchers discovered this was due to a specific molecule, dubbed HMBPP, released as the parasite that causes malaria, attacks the body's red blood cells.

Opening what looks like a giant refrigerator kept to a temperature of 27 degrees C, Emami shows off shelves of water-filled containers full of wriggling larvae, and the improvised mosquito cages, which she and her team feed daily. By adding to beetroot juice — "a trace amount of toxins combined with the molecule, mosquitoes eat it and die," said Emami.



SHELTER FROM THE STORM

High waves and strong winds hit The Four Lighthouse at Porspoder in western France on Friday | AFP

Evidence of water on moon's surface

SPACE

BEIJING: China's Chang'e 5 lunar lander has found the first-ever on-site evidence of water on the surface of the moon, lending new evidence to the dryness of the satellite.

The study published on Saturday in the peer-reviewed journal Science Advances revealed that the lunar soil at the landing site contains less than 120 parts-per-million (ppm) wa-

ter or 120 grams water per ton, and a light, vesicular rock carries 180 ppm, which are much drier than that on Earth.

The presence of water had been confirmed by remote observation but the lander has now detected signs of water in rocks and soil. A device on-board the lunar lander measured the spectral reflectance of the regolith and the rock and detected water on the spot for the first time. The water con-

tent can be estimated since the water molecule or hydroxyl absorbs at a frequency of about three micrometers, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported. It was the solar wind that contributed to the most humidity of lunar soil as it brought hydrogen that makes up the water, the researchers said. The additional 60 ppm water in the rock may originate from the lunar interior, according to the researchers.



The James Webb Space Telescope completed its two-week-long deployment phase on Saturday, unfolding the final mirror panel as it readies to study every phase of cosmic history. Engineering teams cheered back at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Maryland as NASA announced on Twitter that the final wing was deployed.

Omicron scare in Beijing's close neighbour Tianjin

Weeks ahead of the Winter Olympics in the Chinese capital, authorities try to control rapid spread of virus in the city

HEALTH

LONDON: China on Sunday scrambled to test 14 million residents of Tianjin as the port city near the capital has set off alarm bells ahead of the next month's Beijing Winter Olympics by reporting a cluster of Covid-19 cases, including two with the dreaded Omicron variant.

Thousands of people commute between Tianjin and Beijing as it takes hardly 30 minutes by the high-speed train. Officials said that Tianjin, a municipality that neighbours Beijing, has decided to start a citywide nucleic acid testing after 20 people tested positive for Covid-19.

The infections were reported on Friday and Saturday in Jinan district and the gene sequencing found the first two locally-transmitted confirmed cases were infected with the Omicron variant, the municipal headquarters for Covid-19 prevention and control said on Sunday. Tianjin was the first Chinese city to report a few cases of Omicron in mid-December but not much was heard of its spread since then while major spike in cases was reported from the tourist city of Xian and a few other cities, prompting officials to resort to mass testing.

Besides the two Omicron cases, 18 other infections in Tianjin are mainly students and their family members related to a day-care centre and a primary school where the first two cases were reported, Gu Qing, director of the municipal health commission, said at a press conference.

This prompted the local officials to resort to mass testing



of all the 14 million people before its spread to Beijing as the capital city is set to host the much-advertised Winter Olympics from February 4.

The coronavirus has spread for at least three generations in the latest resurgence, and more cases may emerge, said Zhang Ying, deputy director of the Tianjin city's centre for disease control and prevention. The citywide nucleic acid testing is expected to be completed in 24 hours in four districts on Sunday and in 12 other districts on Monday, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The residents will not be given a green health code until receiving a negative test result, the headquarters said.

Meanwhile, the country's National Health Commission (NHC) reported 165 Covid-19 cases, including 92 locally-transmitted ones. Of the new local cases, 56 were reported in Henan, 30 in Shaanxi, three in Tianjin, two in Zhejiang and one in Guangdong, the commission said. It also reported 73 new imported cases in 12 pro-

vincial-level regions.

In all, 3,392 patients are still receiving treatment, of whom 26 were in severe condition, it said. The rising number of cases is a cause of concern as China is poised to hold the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in a few weeks' time.

UK records 'terrible toll'

LONDON: The UK crossed another grim Covid-19 milestone after recording 150,000 deaths since the pandemic hit the country in 2020, even as the Omicron variant surge continues with a further 146,390 daily infections and 313 deaths on Saturday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the coronavirus pandemic has "taken a terrible toll on our country" as he renewed his appeal for people to get vaccinated and thanked the National Health Service (NHS) for its life-saving efforts.

"Each and every one of those is a profound loss to the families, friends, and communities and my thoughts and condolences are with them," said Johnson. "Our way out of this pandemic is for everyone to get their booster or their first or second dose if they haven't yet. I want to thank everyone in the NHS and all the volunteers who have come forward to help with our country's vaccine programme," he said.

It comes as the UK's Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, became the first Cabinet minister to suggest further cutting down the seven-day self-isolation period for mild Covid cases to five days as the country was on the road from 'pandemic to endemic'. The US recently shortened self-isolation period to five days.

COVID CORNER

No vax mandate in Germany yet

HEALTH

Germany's ruling parties are hitting the brakes on plans for compulsory coronavirus vaccinations, saying it may take months for lawmakers to properly debate the contentious measure in parliament. Berlin daily Tagesspiegel on Sunday quoted Dirk Wiess, a deputy parliamentary caucus leader for the Social Democrats, as saying the Bundestag should aim to complete its deliberations on the vaccine mandate during the first quarter of 2022. Green party caucus leader Britta Hasselmann told the Funk media group that the first debate could take place in late January. With few parliamentary sessions in February, this could mean the lower house won't pass a bill before the end of March. The Bundesrat, Germany's upper chamber, would then take up the matter in April, meaning the earliest it could come into force would be a month later. Germany reported 36,552 new cases.

'US military can't leave base'

HEALTH

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Sunday that Japan and the US have reached 'a basic agreement' on banning the US military from leaving its base grounds, amid growing worries about a sharp rise in coronavirus cases. Kishida said American soldiers will stay on base 'except when absolutely necessary,' which presumably means for emergencies or other security reasons. Details of the deal are still being worked out, he said on Fuji TV. The overall US-Japan security alliance remains unchanged. New daily Covid-19 cases have surged recently in what medical experts call 'the sixth wave.' New cases jumped above 8,000 on Saturday. The spike has been blamed on the US military because the case increases are most pronounced in areas near the bases. Japan asked the US for cooperation in keeping its military personnel on base last week.

NATURE HEALS ITSELF

Wasteland to wetland: Deserted quarry turns into haven for endangered UK birds

ENVIRONMENT

EARITH (UK): Nature is reclaiming her territory at a quarry in the east of England that is being transformed into a vast reserve offering vital sanctuary to endangered birds.

With its reedbed wetlands, the marshy plain of the Fens outside Cambridge has become an attractive habitat for the secretive bittern, which was until 2015 on the UK's Red list of most-threatened species.

Today the thickest heron, with its perfectly camouflaged streaked brown plumage and a

booming springtime call that sounds like someone blowing over the top of a bottle, is on the less critical but still threatened Amber list.

"It's really a demonstration of how working with partners — big decisive action at large scale — we can bring species off that Red list," said Chris Hudson, senior site manager at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' (RSPB) Ouse Fen Nature Reserve, some 120 kilometres (80 miles) north of London.

Although the elusive bird did not put in an appearance when AFP visited on a brisk and rainy

January winter morning, five percent of the UK's bitterns now nest at Ouse Fen (in pic).

The reserve's bittern population is today larger than the nationwide total in the mid-1990s, when the RSPB's list of threatened species was first published, said Hudson, binoculars always at the ready.

Insect decline

The latest edition of Birds of Conservation Concern was published in December 2021 and now includes 70 species on the Red list — more than double the figure when the first report was



published in 1996. Around 30 percent of the British Isles' 245 bird species are now in danger.

Among the new species on the list are the house martin and the

swift, migratory birds that fly thousands of kilometres (miles) from central and southern Africa each spring to breed in Europe.

Richard Gregory, head of monitoring at the RSPB Centre for Conservation Science, blames population decrease mainly on changing land use in the UK, Europe and beyond, which deprives birds of food and habitat. "The decline of these birds might tell us something about a huge decline in the biomass of insects, which has been a real concern for conservationists across Europe recently, and it's probably a much wider phenomenon," he said.

"So we need more research, but that's a real warning sign about how the environment is

changing around us. But we also know that when you manage the habitats, when you protect the habitats, and you protect the birds, they can bounce right back," said Gregory, pointing to the example of the "magnificent" white-tailed eagle, which was extinct in the British Isles in the early 20th century.

At the Ouse Fen reserve in early January were once-rare great white egrets of the heron family and marsh harriers, a threatened bird of prey whose numbers have bounced back thanks to decades of conservation efforts.



Yash's KGF Chapter 2 to release on set date

PG 4

DAY'S DIARY

Underground railway

On January 10, 1863, the Metropolitan Railway opened the world's first underground railway. It was built between Paddington and Farringdon Street

THE PROPOSITION

The London Underground was proposed by Charles Pearson, a city solicitor, shortly after the opening of the Thames Tunnel

ON THE FIRST DAY

A select group of 700 people arrived at Paddington and in two trains travelled along the new line

MODERNISATION

The London Underground was nationalised in 1948. New lines were constructed, steam locomotives were replaced by electric ones, and new safety measures were introduced

With Covid cases on the rise, wedding parties are sending over festive fare to guests attending virtually to ensure they too can partake in the celebrations

TRADITION & A TWIST



P.K. VIVHA BY GINGER FILMS

ANILA KURIAN

VIDHI Chauhan and Karan T had been waiting to tie the knot since February 2021, but the pandemic kept ruining their plans. Finally in December, they decided to go ahead with only close friends and family in attendance. All the other well-wishers attended the wedding virtually. While this is not new, what made their wedding slightly different was their decision to send their 'maduve oota' to those who couldn't be present. With the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in the country once again, weddings are seeing a twist these days. Chauhan says, "We would have loved to have waited for things to get

better but there's a new surprise each time. We didn't want to wait any longer to start our lives together, so we felt it's best to go ahead with a home wedding. And since we wanted those attending the wedding virtually to partake in the celebrations, we felt that sending food would bring everyone together."

So when the rituals concluded, a traditional fare complete with desserts had reached the guests' homes.

This has become the new norm, says Vishal Gupta, founder and director of The Creative Kitchen. "Depending on the host, we arrange for meal boxes. We have done a few of them since the first wave," says Gupta,



Meal box put together by Taj West End Bengaluru



Sweets by Heera Caterers

Narang, executive chef of the star property, says, "With the pandemic, we have brought in a lot of innovations and creative thinking, keeping in mind the safety of our guests. We have done several weddings where we have sent out Khov Suey, Galouti Kebab, Baigan Saraf, Pasta, Gul-kand Rasmalai ordered through our in-house food delivery platform."

Narang agrees with Gupta about the effort that goes into the presentation and packaging. "Re-heating instructions and allergens are sent with every food order so that the guests can enjoy the meal in the right manner. The entire packing has zero plastic. The idea is to ensure that food is easy to travel and not messy," he explains.

Sending only sweets and hampers are also a trend at weddings now. According to Bhim Mandal, co-owner of Heera Caterers, one of his clients, a Sindhi, had ordered about 2,000 rasmalais to be sent over to the guests in clay pots. "He had invited about 30 guests to the wedding at his house and everyone else attended it online," Mandal says, adding that hampers with a variety of sweets is also common now.



Vishal Gupta

City-based Priyashmita Guha's latest e-commerce venture Deraj, a bespoke boutique which customises sarees on the basis of personal stories, has come out with a Mughal series inspired by the designs of Taj Mahal

EXPRESS FEATURES

DESIGNER Priyashmita Guha believes that if people and their stories are different, their attire has to be too. City-based Guha's latest e-commerce venture Deraj, a bespoke boutique, has come out with a Mughal series which is inspired by the intricate designs on the Taj Mahal. They also customise sarees on the basis of personal stories. Guha says it was a breath of fresh air when they got a call from a client to customise a saree inspired by the Mughal architecture.

"We received a call from our customer, Ananya, enquiring whether there's a Mughal Series. It was her mum's 82nd birthday and she wanted to gift her this concept saree as she was a history lover too. The

Six yards of stories

saree would be a double treat for her mother," says Guha, who decided to go with the stonework of Mughal architecture. Now, they have turned it into a series but what stands out is that each piece is different from the other.

Deraj, which is the brainchild of Sanjuka Guha, Priyashmita Guha and Nazneen Khan, started with the strong belief of bringing together exclusive "handmade" designs. "Our focus is to work

with the individuality of each customer, their stories and dreams and convert them into a wearable piece. For every order that we undertake, we send a questionnaire to our customer which includes their favourite colour, favourite memory, favourite flower, what makes them happy amongst other details on material, budget etc," shares Guha, the co-founder of Devraj.

A landmark moment for them was when they were commissioned to design two scarves (Uttoriyo) for Shashi Tharoor.

"It was for a political event he was to attend. We decided on designing one which was hand-painted and the other, a hand-embroidered one. Our joys knew no bounds when Tharoor tweeted about our scarf," says Guha.



Sanjuka Guha, Priyashmita Guha and Nazneen Khan

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are



THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com with the subject line 'Food quiz'

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE. The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹3,500 Glass Kitchen and Bar at Holiday Inn Bengaluru Racecourse**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

- 1) Avarekai Mela
- 2) Hal Bai/ Rice Halwa
- 3) Bell Pepper

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

- 1) R Rajesh 2) Srikanth
- 3) Viraj Reddy

*Conditions apply

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WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

DOODLE CLASSES

Sitting at home can become quite monotonous. Join 'Art of Doodling' by Hobbee Horse and indulge yourself in some art.
When: Jan 22
Details: bookmyshow.com

DISCOUNTED DEALS

Fashion brand Folio has a discount sale in store for women's wear including occasion wear, semi-formal/ formal/ casual/ accessories jewellery, bags, footwear and much more.
When: Till Jan 15
Where: Vittal Malliya Road
Details: 080 4246053

BOLLYWOOD DANCE

Hate going to the gym? Love all the drama of Bollywood? Then this workshop is for you. Break a leg with choreographer Dr Tanmayi
When: Jan 16
Details: bookmyshow.com

RISE TO THE SUN

Explore the serene beauty of Karnataka with Namma Trip as they organise a trek to Skandagiri. You can catch the sunrise there and head home by lunch.
When: Jan 14
Details: townscript.com

CATCH COMEDIAN JEEYA SETHI PERFORM HER NEW SHOW 'IN CONVERSATION WITH JEEYA' ONLINE | **WHEN:** JAN 10 | **TICKETS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM

URBAN SKETCHING

Avidip Kundu is a self-taught artist who usually takes joy in drawing and sketching landscapes. Urban sketch is where one can draw or paint the beauty of the city by capturing the beauty in his paper.
When: Jan 30, 12.30 pm
Details: bookmyshow.com

FITNESS CAMP

Looking for a fun way to work out? Here's a two-hour fitness camp. Some of the fitness regimes practiced at Vesh Studio, Indiranagar, includes HIIT and animal flow.
When: Jan 15- Jan 29
Details: bookmyshow.com

Kanva lake CAMPING & ADVENTURES

Lakeside camping in Kanva backwaters in Ramanagara brought to you by EscapeExplore has all kinds of activities one would enjoy. From water activities to land, breathe in a fresh wisp of air.
Details: insider.in

Embroidery collection

Fashion brand Aab Label is launching Matsya, a collection of Phulkari motifs inspired by the first Avatar of Vishnu. The Matsya collection offers a range of recycled handloom fabric, contemporary silhouettes and geometric designs of Phulkari.
Available: Aab Label website

Soulful Night

A perfect way to end your Saturday night is by losing yourself to soulful love poetry presented by Alankaar. The poems will be presented in Hindi and Marathi by Danish Husain, Priya Malik and others.
When: Jan 15, 7 pm.
Details: insider.in

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com

SPAGHETTI SOUBISE WITH PORTOBELLO MUSHROOMS

INGREDIENTS

■ Spaghetti: 200 g ■ Garlic cloves: 4-5
■ Portobello mushrooms/button mushrooms: 100 g, sliced
■ Bechamel sauce (white sauce): 100 g
■ Olive oil: 15 ml ■ White wine: 20 ml
■ Onion: 40 g, finely chopped
■ Salt & pepper to taste
■ Basil leaves for garnish
■ Chicken breast: 100 g

METHOD

■ Cook pasta. In a pan add olive oil and sauté onion and garlic till they turn white.
■ Deglaze it with white wine and add bechamel sauce. Cook chicken breast and portobello in another pan. Add the portobello to the sauce and let it simmer for 2 minutes. Add the pasta and toss it well.
■ Plate the pasta and place strips of cooked chicken breast on top, garnish this with basil leaves.
— Harshit Taneja, New Delhi

FIT BIT

PARSVA URDHVA HASTASANA

(UPWARD SALUTE SIDE BEND POSE)

This is a beginner level yoga pose performed in a standing position, which aids increased energy and is also considered as a warm-up pose to prepare the body for more intense poses/flows. This side-bending variation increases the stretch to the sides of the body, improving balance and coordination. Reaching the arms overhead creates space in the chest and lungs, which is therapeutic for asthma and congestion. It also creates space between the vertebrae, which improves posture and helps prepare the spine for deeper stretches.

STEPS

● Stand in Tadasana (Palm Tree Pose).
● Inhale and bend your upper body from the waist towards the left.
● As you exhale expand the body sideways and go deeper towards the left feeling the stretch at the right side of the upper body.
● Inhale and release the pose and come to the centre exhaling but keep the arms in namaskar mudra stretched up.
● Inhale and bend the body towards the right, stretching the arms out, bending at the hips. As you exhale feel the stretch at the left side of the body.
● You can hold the pose on each side for about four or five breaths and as you release expand upwards before taking the body sideways.

BENEFITS

● Brings balance to the body as the body moves away from its centre.
● The stretching of the body towards one side and balancing on the feet together, tones the leg muscles and the hip.
● Flexibility of the upper body and the hip is increased with better focus and stability.
● It is also helpful for relieving sciatica and reducing the effects of flat feet.
● Level of concentration is increased and therefore this pose can be used for meditative practice also.

LIMITATIONS

● Those who are having shoulder or neck injuries should avoid raising their arms completely overhead.
● Always work within your own range of limits and abilities.
● If you have any medical concerns, talk to any yoga expert before practising it.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science), at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

THE STORY

The Story presents the unknown backstories of people who changed the world. Each episode is a mini-historical biography and includes life lessons and actionable insights from the most courageous and successful people in history.
● On Gaana

GIANTS OF HISTORY

Giants of History is a documentary podcast that explores the lives of history's most fascinating and influential figures. Each series highlights the best stories and the most monumental moments in each subject's respective life.
● On Apple Podcasts

THE NOSLEEP PODCAST

The NoSleep Podcast features stories from authors who have gone on to publish their works, including the "Penpal" series from Dathan Auerbach, "99 Brief Scenes from the End of the World" by TW Grim, "What Happens When the Stars Go Out" by Jesse Clark, and "Psychosis" by Matt Dymerski.
● On Spotify

LIMETOWN

Limetown is a fictional story told as a series of investigative reports by Lia Haddock, a journalist for American Public Radio, detailing the disappearance of over 300 people at a neuroscience research facility in Tennessee.
● On Spotify

SAVVY PAINTER

Savvy Painter is a bi-weekly podcast for artists who mean business. Antrese Wood talks to expert painters about the business of art and how it gets created.
● On Apple Podcasts

MARCH 22

The villagers from Raya durga live a peaceful life, like a close-knit family. However, a prolonged famine and the arrival of a geologist lead to disharmony and chaos in their lives.
● Cast: Anant Nag, Sharata Lohitashwa, Vinaya Prasad, Jai Jagadish

TAXIWALA

Shiva settles for the job of a cab driver after quitting several odd jobs. However, things take a turn when he faces spine-chilling incidents while driving and tries to solve the mystery.
● Cast: Priyanka Jawalkar, Malvika Nair, Ravi Prakash, Madhuranandan

SEETHARAMA KALYANA

Arya, a righteous man, falls in love with a small-town woman named Geetha, unaware of the obstacles that lie ahead for both of them.
● Cast: Nikhil Gowda, Rachita Ram, Chikanna, Adithya

GENTLEMAN

Kicha is a modern-day Robin Hood, who along with his friend, Mani, steals from the rich to aid the poor. In society, he is a respected man who runs a small business.
● Cast: Madhoo, Subhashri, Goundamani, Charan Raj

GOWRAMMA

Venky, a boy from a small town, comes to the city in pursuit of computer education. His father wants him to do some productive job and sends him to the city to get a job at a friend's place.
● Cast: Upendra Rao, Divya Spandana, Sadhu Kokila, Srinivasa Murthy

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 THE ARCHITECTURAL MASTERMIND BEHIND MODERN SINGAPORE BY LIU THAI KER

Master architect Liu Thai Ker who transformed Singapore into a modern marvel with his unique approach to sustainable urban design. He shares creative wisdom on how marrying a humanist heart, a scientific mind and an artistic eye creates a resilient marriage of form and function.

2 WHAT MAKES A JOB "GOOD" — AND THE CASE FOR INVESTING IN PEOPLE BY WARREN VALDMANIS

Businesses need to stop cutting labor costs and start investing in people, says social impact investor Warren Valdmannis. In this perspective-shifting talk, he breaks down the essential ingredients of a "good" job — which is more than just the size of a paycheck — and shares why they're key to building great companies.

3 LANGUAGE SHOULDN'T BE A BARRIER TO CLIMATE ACTION BY SOPHIA KIANNI

With Climate Cardinals, activist and social entrepreneur Sophia Kianni is furthering the global transfer of knowledge by translating and sourcing crucial climate resources into more than 100 languages. A barrier-breaking talk about the collective effort we'll need to protect the future.

4 HOW MOMS SHAPE THE WORLD BY ANNA MALAIKA TUBBS

Citing the remarkable lives of Alberta King, Louise Little and Berdis Baldwin (the mothers of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and James Baldwin, respectively), sociologist and author Anna Malaika Tubbs emphasises the need to shift the perspective on motherhood at a cultural level.

5 A FREE AND FAIR INTERNET BENEFITS EVERYONE BY PRISCILLA CHOMBA-KINYWA

Digital transformation strategist Priscilla Chomba-Kinywa advocates for collective access to the opportunities and potential the Internet provides, underscoring the necessity of free and fair digital rights for all.

REGIONAL

POGARU (Kannada)

After a troubled past, Shiva becomes a local thug and protects the people around him. However, Shiva's selfless nature is put to the test when a builder tries to exploit the residents for his personal gain. Can Shiva protect the helpless people?
● Cast: Dhruva Sarja, Rashmika Mandanna, Mayuri Kyatari
● Watch on: Voot

MUDDY (Malayalam)

Muddy portrays the rivalry between two blood ties named Muthu and Karthy. This combines three unique mud races where a new villain Tony comes in between. Will the three of them be able to defeat each other and who will win the final race is the rest of the story.
● Cast: Yuvan Krishna, Riddhaan Krishna, Anusha Suresh
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SWEATER (Bengali)

Tuku, a simple and unassuming woman, tries to learn knitting to please her would-be mother-in-law. As she masters the art at her relative's house, she meets Shyama, who helps her transform herself.
● Cast: Isha Saha, Anuradha Mukharjee, Sreelekha Mitra
● Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

CHAL MERA PUTT (Punjabi)

A lighthearted comedy about a group of illegal Punjabi immigrants living in the city of Birmingham trying to better their lives. The film explores the struggles they face, the lasting friendships they make and the challenges they overcome all whilst trying to get their PR.
● Cast: Amrinder Gill, Simi Chahal, Itikhar Thakur
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

PUSHPA: THE RISE (Telugu)

Pushpa Raj, a coolie, volunteers to smuggle red sanders, a rare wood that only grows in Andhra. He quickly becomes the leader of the red sanders smuggling network. While Pushpa is at his prime, a police officer Bhannwar Singh Shekhawat takes charge as SP and ridicules him for his lineage.
● Cast: Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SANDEEP AUR PINKY FARAAR (Hindi)

Sandeep, a corporate employee, and Pinkesh, a suspended policeman, witness a violent incident. As a result, they must stick together and outrun the thugs pursuing them.
● Cast: Parineeti Chopra, Arjun Kapoor, Jaideep Ahlawat
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

VICKY AND HER MYSTERY (French)

After his wife's death, Stéphane moves to the mountains with 8-year-old daughter Vicky, who has stopped talking. One day, while walking in the forest, Vicky discovers a puppy that she decides to keep in secret. She names him Mystery.
● Cast: Vincent Elbaz, Shanna Keil, Marie Gillain
● Watch on: Netflix

CHERNOBYL 1986 (Russian)

After reuniting with a lost love, firefighter Alexey retires to begin a new life — but the Chernobyl disaster suddenly plunges him back into danger.
● Cast: Danila Kozlovsky, Oksana Akinshina, Ravshana Kurkova
● Watch on: Netflix

ANONYMOUSLY YOURS (Spanish)

After an accidental text message turns into a digital friendship, Vale and Alex start crushing on each other without realizing they've met in real life.
● Cast: Annie Cabello, Harold Azuara, Estefi Merelles
● Watch on: Netflix

FOUR TO DINNER (Italian)

Parallel storylines portray four single friends as they pair up in different couple combinations.
● Cast: Matilde Gioli, Giuseppe Maggio, Llenia Pastorelli, Matteo Martari
● Watch on: Netflix

SHABASHYAM

Disney+ Hotstar: ₹ 499 per year
Apple TV: ₹ 99 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Netflix: ₹ 149 per month

LIFE AT CROSSROADS

Independent filmmaker's latest short film *Amamma*, starring Padma Shri B Jayashree, Samyukta Hornad and Naresh Narasimhan, is based on a sensitive topic of the elderly's need for companionship

MONIKA MONALISA

A woman in the course of her busy life sometimes forgets about her personal needs. It could be anything as small as 'me-time' to something life-changing like having a companion at a later stage in life. Independent filmmaker's latest short film *Amamma* is based on a sensitive topic of elderly people talking about their need for companionship. The film stars Padma Shri B Jayashree, Samyukta Hornad and architect Naresh V Narasimhan.

In the movie, an elderly woman, played by Jayashree, is confused about having a companion in her life. Sampath says the movie is inspired from a conversation she had with her grandmother, who is no more. "Though she was my father's mother, I somehow called her *Amamma* — which means mother's mother. I lost my grandfather at a very early age and my grandmother spent 30 years of her life without a companion.

So we had a discussion on this earlier," says Sampath, who lost her grandmother two years ago.

Sampath, who has written and directed the film, believes that the bond between a grandmother and granddaughter is sometimes so special that it varies from being a mentor to a confidant. For her 18-minute-long movie she wanted Hornad to play the granddaughter's part. "But I was not ever sure about who could play the lead character, so I decided to wait. Later, B Jayashree stepped in to play the part," says Sampath.

Many might call it an "edgy or out-of-the-box topic" to explore, but Sampath feels these stories are part of life. "My work mostly comes from observing my surroundings. And I don't believe these topics should cater to a niche audience," she adds.

The movie was shot in a studio in Bengaluru. It took her a few days of rehearsal and three days of shooting to finish the movie. However, Sampath is not planning to release it as of now. "I am planning to come up



A still from the short film

with a few more movies and create an anthology of four stories," says Sampath, adding that the film will be made in both Kannada and English.

The first film in the anthology, *Notary*, which is co-produced by actor and comic Sumukhi Suresh and directed by Vivek Ram, has been screened in 25 film festivals and has already won many accolades, nationally and internationally.

FILMOGRAPHY

Short film *Notary*, which is written and directed by Pooja Sampath, speaks about two notary officers who have been working in the same office for years but something has changed between them. This 15-minute film stars Siddhant and Ravikiran Rajendranis and is produced by Sumukhi Suresh and Vivek Ram. The movie was selected for various film festivals like the Mumbai Shorts International film festivals, Beyond Earth Film Festival, Kolkata, Lift off Global Network Sessions, UK, 10th Dada Saheb Phalke Film Festival to name a few. Sampath was also nominated as the best debut filmmaker for the movie.



Naresh V Narasimhan



My work mostly comes from observing my surroundings. And I don't believe topics like the elderly's need for companionship should cater to a niche audience

Pooja Sampath, filmmaker

Back to age-old practices



PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrum and lifestyle coach)

THERE is far more to fashion than just tassels, beads or pearls. Fashion is a movement that symbolises the history of a country and its political and economic situations. All forms of art have been a medium of expression, passing on stories for generations. The weaves and prints reflect the culture and mindset of a generation that was, as much as words, poems and stories do.

The other day I was digging into my mom's wardrobe when I noticed drapes in geometrical prints. I instantly remembered watching the iconic Freddie Mercury's movie *The Bohemian Rhapsody*. It gave me such a peek into pop culture and fashion and how close knit they are.

I still remember my mother's enthusiasm about stitching clothes for my dolls as well as using her sarees to make lehengas for me when there was a wedding in the family. Today, we call it upcycling...I now plan to upcycle the geometric-printed saree into a skirt.

There was something amazing about our grandmothers who would ration everything in the kitchen, reuse old fabrics, refurbish the old charpoy without letting them go. Today, we call it 'sustainable living', while back then, people used to reduce these acts to being miserly.

The sustainability in life-

style is a virtue that has been part of Indian culture, but it is our generation that moved away in the quest of becoming somebody else, the 'FOMO' of not being present somewhere or chasing the mirage. But how does that make us unique then? We speak about absolving from colour and gender biases... my teen daughter could write about how inadequate this generation of kids is made to feel.

This year Afro fashion that has hardly enjoyed its moment, with it being brief and fleeting despite its versatility and uniqueness, will soak in its glory. The much-anticipated sequel of the Hollywood blockbuster *Black Panther* would surely catapult the Afro weaves, prints and flamboyance to the world stage. We have all loved the box braids, the wild brilliant hairstyles and bright and bold fashion of Africa. So be prepared to spice up your look with some headwraps and innovative Ankara jewellery.

Men can up their style with pencil pant suits in Afro Pop culture prints. African fashion will redefine this decade of style as it resonates with the growing sentiment of 'slow fashion'. Recycled jewellery, fabrics sourced from artisans, Ankara printed bags and more. All we need are inspirational figures like Michelle Obama to embark on this trendy journey and we will soon be following.

This year I wish all of us luck to realise who we are and what our calling is and rejoice in this glory. Let there be light in all our lives, including the artisans. If their work goes extinct, it would be the end of a chapter of history, design and authentic identity of every culture.



BIRTHDAY BASH

KGF star Yash celebrated his birthday recently with his wife and his 'tiny tots'. Taking it to social media, the Kannada actor posted a picture of him cutting the cake with his family. He captioned, "Birthdays have never excited me... its the happiness I see around, now especially with my tiny tots, they get me going! Would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of my fans n well wishers for your love and blessings. Hoping everyone is keeping safe. Do take care."



ON A NEW ENDEAVOUR

If he is not on the pitch playing cricket, Manish Pandey surely has another sport to be busy with. Taking it to social media, the Bengaluru boy posted a picture of him with the ice skating equipment. Looks like he is picking on his ice skating skills off late! Also don't miss his blue shades. Tell us what you think.

The Forgotten City: Time-loops, and a delightful story!



ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Gana pathi

@quofies

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

A part from the occasional first-person shooters that gave me a headache, 2021 was an excellent year for videogames. I now have a standard to which I hold games accountable, and that standard is that they must have a gripping

story. I played one such game to start off the new year — the theme, a hangover from 2021's time-loop onslaught. It is called "The Forgotten City". Barely 15 minutes into the game, and I couldn't wait to tell anyone who would listen, that they must all play it.

In TFC, I am a self-proclaimed archaeologist, who finds herself lost in an old city. The city is small, with only a few dozen residents. The big secret of the city were its numerous golden

statues, scattered as scarcely as garbage on the beach. The statues are shiny relics of people who looked as though they were frozen mid-action. I soon learn that the city suffers from the curse of ancient gods. The residents are trapped there in perpetuity, stuck in a land of the past — around the time of the Roman empire. Obviously, my goal is to escape this place. It's not just because there is no internet, or because the women had no voting rights at the time.

It's because the gods had enforced this ludicrous judgement known as the "Golden Rule".

Simply explained, the "Golden Rule" is a philosophical idea of only doing the right thing — the good thing. Even if one person in the city commits a sin, the whole city pays for it. I am a really nice person, so I found it fairly easy to do the right thing in the game. However, morality is not strictly defined. As I talk to the residents, I find that the dialogues are written well, and also — not all wrongful activities are condemned. The game forces us to ask deeper questions: How do humans identify what bad deeds are? How do we distinguish between a boo-boo and a misguided judgement? Does it deserve punishment if rationalised? The moment I gained this unwanted enlightenment, I stopped holding myself back. I did everything wrong that I could do to get out of this hellish utopia.

Thankfully, or sadly, I was stuck in a time-loop. Whenever I made a mistake, or made someone slip-up, the day restarted (for everyone but me). But with each re-entry, I had added information — eventually helping me uncover the mystery. I won't say more. You must play it — it's a great game for beginners and seasoned gamers alike. A full 10/10 from me. It's available across consoles — PS, Xbox, and PC.

PIXIE SECRETS

OF RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER UGLY TRUTHS

As it always happens, this holiday season might look a little different for everyone. Whether we're spending these days picking out our best pajamas for the evening, or carefully blending in four shades of eyeshadows, there's no better time to wipe the slate clean and bring everyone's mood down by bringing up New Year's resolutions.

Allow me to explain. While most of us could stand to drink less, exercise more, and meditate every day, there's something particularly annoying hearing your friends go on a dry January, train for a marathon and count calories. It al-



SAUMYA CHAWLA
@pixie.secrets
Beauty behaviour with a side of dessert

most feels like the carriage has poofed itself back to a pumpkin. I mean, does anyone really want to start their new year with daunting tasks like learning a new language or forgoing gluten? Aren't new year's difficult enough already?

Skincare resolutions, on the other hand, feel fun and easy

breezy. I'm not talking about a complete overhaul to your routine, just little additions and swaps that promise to make your regimes healthier and are a snap to follow.

My first bone to pick is with make-up wipes. No really, stop now. It's time to leave the rubbish in the past and to commit to choosing a make-up removing alternative that stays away from the toxic reality of facial wipes. Yes, they might be affordable and easy to use in a pinch, but they block our drainage, end up in our oceans and, honestly, don't even clean make-up out well. They don't seep in deep enough to clean your

pores, and the violently aggressive scrubbing causes unwanted irritation. Hard pass! If you're not in the market for cleansing oils, balms and waters at all, consider investing in reusable make-up wipes instead.

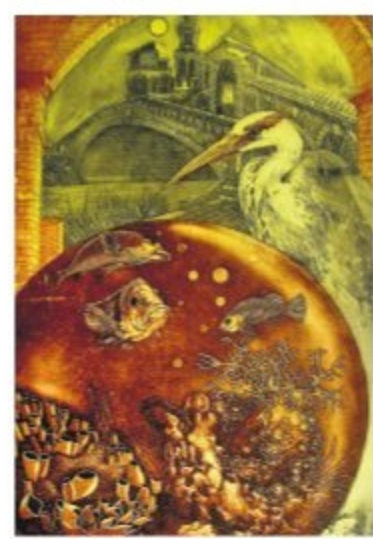
Honestly, make better choices. While a zero-waste beauty routine might be a big ask and difficult to undertake, start small with refills and recycling your empties. I've had my eyes and heart set on L'Occitane's refills which come in massive pouches and help you save up to 80% of the plastic used in the original product. They have also partnered with a social enterprise, Saahas Zero Waste, to help you recycle your used products.

I'm hoping these beauty bits are easy to incorporate, unlike the non-actionable grandiose yet vague mantras that tend to come up during this time of the year (looking at you, "live life to the fullest"). Besides, maybe I don't want to stop replacing my cookies with entire meals, okay? Let me live! On that note, wishing all my lovely readers a healthier year.

CITY READ

International exhibition of graphic print from Jan 10

The second Print Biennale India International Exhibition of Graphic Prints will be organised at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. The Biennale showcases works from 14 countries which will feature 28 international collections and 121 nationally-recognised works of 33 artists.



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In an exclusive interview with CE, the Rocking Star says he is looking forward to seeing the audiences' reaction of his upcoming film, which is hitting theatres on April 14; the actor also talks about his upcoming pan-India films and more...

YASH:

KGF CHAPTER 2

WILL MEET THE PROMISED RELEASE DATE

A SHARADHAA

YASH'S birthday was a low-key affair this year as he decided not to celebrate it owing to the nation grappling with the third wave of the pandemic.

Yash mentioned that if not for his fans, he doesn't really have a reason to celebrate his birthday, which he sees as just another day in his life. "Unfortunately, we are facing difficult times, and that requires us to follow certain rules and regulations. It is all done for the welfare of our health. Let's hope for things to settle down," mentioned Yash, who promises to celebrate his next birthday with his fans. However, Yash does have some good news for his fans. The much-awaited Prashanth Neel directorial *KGF Chapter 2*, backed by Hom-bale Films, will be released as per plans on April 14, he confirms. "I am confident the third wave will settle down, and I am saying this based on the reports from across the globe. People did ask me why was the film postponed by eight months. I think we expected this situation, and that is why we pushed it to be on the safer side. Let's hope for the best," he says.

With many big releases getting postponed, the actor is aware of the fact that there will be a slew of films in April leading to heavy competition. "It is difficult times, we all have to cooperate. Nothing is in our control. All we can do is choose the best possible date available. There is a big wave going on,

which needs to settle. Had everything been fine, we might have seen a few being released in January. I think it is destiny. Having said that, we are confident with *KGF Chapter 2*. I am saying this after seeing what we have done. I'm sure people will be excited. All we need now is 100 per cent occupancy to bring *KGF Chapter 2* to theatres. That's all the team and I are looking forward to," he says.

When asked about his next project and the rumours of it being directed by Narthan of *Mufti* fame, Yash says, "For the last two years, I have been asked about my next film. If I had spoken about it back then it wouldn't have mattered now. So, let's keep it that way. Also, I don't believe in the act of announcing a new film on birthdays."

However, he assures that he will be starting a new project this year. "Just because I am not doing new films, it doesn't mean I am idle. I am a workaholic. During this lockdown, I have got myself busy with writing. Whenever I want to take up a new project, I don't want to go by my previous success. Every new film should be a new chap-

ter, and I want it to be a visual spectacle. You have to wake up with excitement. Only then the process becomes interesting. I have a project that will make me go 'wow'. For it, I have to accumulate the right kind of resources and people."

The conversation veers towards the trend of pan-Indian films. Though stars like Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth have made pan-Indian films, they still made more regional films. When asked about his determination to make more pan-Indian films, Yash says, "While the past should be a reference, we also have to think about today's times. Over the years, the film scenario has changed drastically. Globalisation has changed the language barrier. Today, audiences are watching films with subtitles. Back then, there was not much exposure to OTT platforms like today. In theatres too, people are exposed to other language films. So, we have to adapt."

When asked what is keeping him entertained currently, he says, "Right now, it is all about the *KGF Chapter 2*, and I am excited about the way it has shaped up. You reach a phase where you want to work for the audience. The bar is set high, and people have a lot of expectations for the film. We aim to exceed that. The happiness lies when you see outdo the expectations. That's the feeling I have about *KGF Chapter 2*. We make movies to get appreciation, and people's excitement is something that drives us. I am looking forward to seeing the audience's reaction to *KGF Chapter 2*."

I'm sure people will be excited. All we need now is 100 per cent occupancy

— Yash, actor

CATE BLANCHETT TO STAR IN A MANUAL FOR CLEANING WOMEN

CE FEATURES

Cate Blanchett is the first cast member to be confirmed for director Pedro Almodóvar's *A Manual for Cleaning Women*. The director is well-known for his Spanish titles such as *Talk to Her*, *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* and *Parallel Mothers*; and this would be his first English language feature film. *A Manual for Cleaning Ladies* is an adaptation of the short-story collection of the same name by author Lucia Berlin. This collection contains forty 43 stories about women from different walks of life, who have different kinds of profession.



Cate Blanchett



Manjunatha D, Dhananjay, Prakash Pandeshwar, and Satya Prakash D

TRIBBLE RIDING COMBO OF GANESH, MAHESH GOWDA TO TEAM UP AGAIN

The actor and director's next will be produced by Samruddhi Manjunath

CE FEATURES

POST the release of *Sakath*, Ganesh is currently busy with his reality show, *Golden Gang*, and is also waiting for the release of his upcoming films, *Tribble Riding* and *Gaalipata 2*. The Golden Star, who has given a green signal to Suni's *Rayagada*, is speculated to be reuniting with his *Tribble Riding* director Mahesh Gowda for a project backed by Samruddhi Manjunath.

This project will be the first time Samruddhi Manjunath, who previously bankrolled Dinakar Thoogudeepa's *Life Jothe Ondu Selfie*, is collaborating with Ganesh.

Our source tells us that the director, who is getting ready to release *Tribble Riding*, is simultaneously preparing for his next project with Ganesh. The makers are tightlipped about the subject and other details. However, it is expected that Ganesh will kickstart filming for his upcoming projects in the next couple of months depending on the Corona situation.



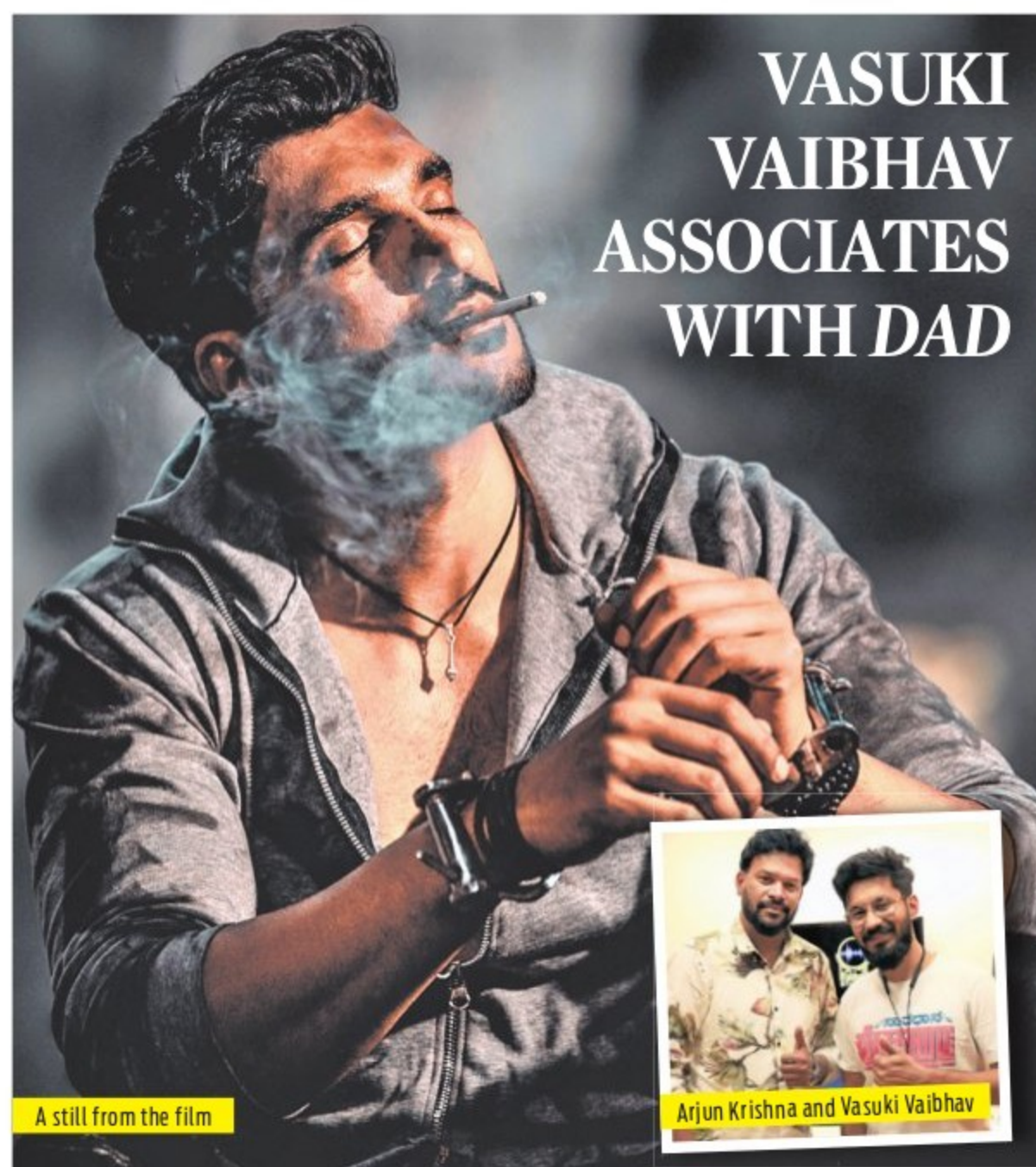
Ganesh



Samruddhi Manjunath



Mahesh Gowda



VASUKI VAIBHAV ASSOCIATES WITH DAD

CE FEATURES

MUSIC director and *Bigg Boss Season 8* contestant, Vasuki Vaibhav, is on-board multi-faceted Arjun Krishna's upcoming film, *DAD* (*Devaraj alias David*). Vasuki has rendered his voice for three tracks composed by the Mumbai-based Ek Khwab band. Vasuki, who has completed recording for the songs, says there is both variety and intensity in the tracks, and he enjoyed singing them.

Director Arjun Krishna says that these three songs relate to the current generation and will become an anthem for those in and out of love. *DAD*, presented by Radhika and Yash, will mark the directorial debut of Arjun Krishna. The crime thriller features model-turned-actor Vishal, Mahika Mahi, and Nrithya Bopanna in the lead cast, and is being made under the banner of AAA Pictures.

Arjun in his previous interview with CE told us that his 15-year-old dream of getting into films came true with *DAD*. Arjun also mentioned that he and Yash were childhood friends. *DAD*, which explores a gangster love story, features Sunchendra Prasad, Chandu of Lakshmi Baraamma fame, and Manju Natana in prominent roles. Anil Kumar K is entrusted with the double responsibility of handling the cinematography and editing of the film.



Arjun Krishna and Vasuki Vaibhav

A still from the film

National award-winning director Satya Prakash turns distributor

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR of *Rama Rama Re* and *Ondalla Eradalla*, Satya Prakash D is now getting into distribution. Backed by producers Manjunatha D, Prakash Pandeshwar, and Deepak Gangadhar, Satya Prakash's banner is called Satya Cine Distributors.

"While I am gaining experience with direction, I now want to learn how to bring the cinema to theatres," says the National award-winning director, who officially announced the distribution company, which was inaugurated by actor-producer, Dhananjay. "We have two to three films in our kitty, and the release plans will depend on the pan-

demetic situation," he adds. Meanwhile, Satya Prakash is looking forward to the release of *Man of the Match*, which is bankrolled by Puneeth Rajkumar's PRK Productions in association with Satya and Mayura Pictures. It is expected to be released on a popular streaming platform, and an official announcement is awaited.